

History of
Providence Methodist Church

(1849 - 50 — 1949 - 50)

Including

BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCHES

of

YORK CHARGE

in the

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

(CENTENNIAL ISSUE)

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I am grateful to Mr. W. E. Moore, member of Providence Church, for the valuable information received from him concerning the early history of our church.

Credit and thanks are hereby extended to many others in helping to compile this information, among whom are: My father, D. D. White, Sr., Wm. F. White, Rev. Merrill Barton, Rev. J. E. White Ret., K. T. Smith, Jr., Mrs. Emma Burcher, Miss Neva Bucher and Mrs. Ruth Sparrer.

I also wish to thank the board of Stewards for their support in having this book published.

PREFACE

The word "Providence" means the foreseeing care and guardianship of God over his creatures. This is the story and history of how one of God's churches began and progressed under his guidance.

This book was written mainly for the members of the church and others who are interested in Providence Church and the community in which it stands. In this book the reader will learn how this particular church happened to be named "Providence," and learn something of the ministers and people who have helped in its growth.

Most of the information published in this book has been taken from actual records and is authentic, however, there may be mistakes or omissions due to incomplete records for the long period of time covered.

This book was not written for personal gain or credit. For some reason I decided to compile the history of Providence Chhrrch, just as other members have felt an urge to contribute to their church. I feel that the history of a church just as that of a nation should be recorded and preserved so that those who follow us may know and appreciate the facts about their church; its origin and growth. For that reason we should be conscious of preserving church records.

This book is divided into three parts, namely:

Part I —Consisting of the introductory chapter "Early Days of the Community" and the First Providence Church 1849-1883.

Part II —The second Providence Church 1883-1931.

Part III—The third and present Providence Church 1931-1950.

Robert E. White

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HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

PART I

CHAPTER 1

EARLY DAYS OF THE COMMUNITY

Before we start on the subject of the origin of Providence Church, let us delve into the past and learn something of the history of the community in which this church stands.

As we have learned from history our first permanent English settlement was at nearby Jamestown, Va. We know that "Freedom of Religion" or the desire to worship as they pleased was one of the strong motives for many of the early settlers to leave their native land and come to this land of wilderness and savages. It has been said that wherever the English speaking people have settled that they brought their religion with them. Even from the very first the colonist at Jamestown worshiped God, before the church at Jamestown could be built, they worshiped under improvised shelter placed in a grove of trees.

At first the growth of the colony was slow, hampered by disease, bitter weather, savages, lack of supplies, etc., but gradually they expanded and pushed outward toward Williamsburg, then known as Middle Plantation, and other points on the lower peninsula.

In 1634 the country was divided into eight Shires or Counties, which were to be governed as the shires of England. One of these shires was known as Charles River, taking its name from the Charles River, which was named in honor of King Charles I, of England. The name of this river was later changed to York.

In March 1643 a law was passed changing the name of this shire or county to York. Each county was divided into Parishes and in 1657 the Parishes of York County were listed as follows: Marion, between Queen's Creek and York River, Middle Plantation (Later Williamsburg), North of Queen's Creek, Chiskeack or Hampton between Queen's Creek and Townsend Creek (afterwards Yorktown Creek), York, between Yorktown Creek and Back Creek and New Poquoson (later known as New Towson and still later as Charles Parish), between Back Creek and Poquoson River.

Most of the people in those days depended either on farming or

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the seafood industry for a livelihood as many still do, although many in later years have gradually drifted from their farms and the water to outside industry and the large plantations have been cut up into smaller plots as in most other parts of the country. At one time tobacco was the chief crop of this area and Yorktown became a thriving seaport, with a population of about 3000 before the Revolutionary War. For some reason the people stopped raising tobacco and other crops such as potatoes and corn took its place as leading crops.

Several large plantations once comprised most of the area now known as Dare, among them were the Howard Plantation, Chisman Plantation and the Tabb Plantation. The latter, or a part of it, in 1846 became the property of a man mentioned in the next chapter, that played an important role in the origin of Providence Church.

CHAPTER 2

PROVIDENCE CHURCH 1849-1883

In 1846, Mr. Edward Davis, of Matthews Co., Va., bought a farm known as the Tabb farm in Fish Neck, Va., as mentioned in Chapter 1. This was a large tract of land extending from Chisman's Creek straight through to where the present Providence Church stands and including a strip of land across the road from the church.

Mr. Davis with all of his family were ardent Methodists, and as there was no Methodist Church in the community he selected a place on his farm which he thought would be suitable for a church. He made known his intentions to his family and they heartily agreed with him, but before Mr. Davis could carry out his intentions, he was taken ill, from which illness God called him to his eternal reward.

For a while after Mr. Davis's death nothing was done in regards to building a house of worship. However, as soon as circumstances would permit, Mrs. Davis, his widow, made known her husband's wishes and intentions to other Methodist people of the community, and gave one acre of land for church and burial purposes.

With the help of the good people of the community a church building, 24 ft. wide by 30 ft. long was erected, and made ready for religious services before the end of 1849. Mr. A. B. Smith being the contractor and builder.

This date was verified in 1911 by surviving charter members of

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the church, for a committee appointed to gather historical data on the church at that time. However, the land that the church was built on was not officially deeded to the trustees of the church until 1851.

In the clerks office of York Co., Deed book number 15, page 55, is found a deed of bargain and sale, dated, Feb. 24, 1851—for one acre of land, between Alexander Weston and Sarah F. Weston, his wife, and Mary Ann Davis, parties of the first part, to Thos. D. Hudgins, Samuel D. Ironmonger, Alexander Weston, James Wilson, John R. Chandler, Peter Shields and Whittington Crockett, Trustees, parties of the second part. This is the deed for the original plot of ground on which the church was built in 1849.

NAMING THE CHURCH

After the church was completed the manner of selecting a name for the new house of worship was considered. A great many names were suggested, among them the name, "Ephesus" was strongly advised by some. Brother Thos. D. Hudgins suggested the name "Providence," stating that he thought it a providential circumstance that Mr. Davis had moved to the community, and that had he not come to the place, there would not have been, at that time, any Methodist Church in the neighborhood.

Mr. Hudgin's suggestion was adopted, and the new church was named Providence.

CHARTER MEMBERS

As far as can be ascertained, there were thirty nine charter members of the congregation, the names of whom are as follows:

Thomas D. Hudgins and wife; Alexander Weston and wife; Wm. A. Nottingham and wife; John R. Chandler and wife; James Wilson, wife and daughter; Robert Wilson and wife; Mrs. Amelia Davis and two daughters, Mary Ann and Elizabeth; Mrs. Nancy Walters; Revel Walters and wife; John W. Sterling and wife; Mrs. Rachel Morgan; John Morgan and wife; William B. Martin and wife; Curtis Messick and wife; John Wainwright and wife; Mrs. Katherine Smith; Mrs. Mary Walters; Mr. George Dunton and wife; Kemp Charles and wife; and Thomas Chandler.

The first Providence Church was located about 125 feet west of

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where the present church stands. What is now the church yard and parking lot was used by the boys as a baseball diamond. An old school house, known as "Fish Neck Academy," sat just a little to the N. E. of where the present church stands.

This Church had a balcony for the negro slaves to sit in as there were no local churches for the Negroes in those days.

PREACHERS WHO SERVED THE FIRST CHURCH

The first preacher to serve the church was Rev. John S. Briggs, serving the church for two years from 1849 to 1851.

Following him was Rev. George W. Trimyer, who remained on the circuit from 1851 to 1852. Rev. Trimyer married Miss Rosanna Davis, daughter of the late Edward Davis and they later settled in Cockle Town.

The next preacher to serve the charge was Wm. A. Robinson. He was born in Gloucester Co., Va. Dec. 11, 1815, converted in July 1836; licensed to preach April 15, 1851. He stayed on the charge from the fall of 1852 until the fall of 1854.

Following Rev. Robinson came David W. Laney, Who remained only one year from 1854 until the fall of 1855.

The next in order was Rev. Humphrey Billups, serving the circuit only one year leaving in the fall of 1856. Rev. Billups died May 20, 1871.

The next appointment to the charge was Rev. Alexander M. Hall, serving the church for the conference year 1856-57. Rev. Hall was born in the city of Norfolk, Va., May 6, 1830 and died in Petersburg, Va., Nov. 25, 1910 at the age of 80. He was the son of Rev. Horatio and Elizabeth Hall.

Rev. James E. Joiner was sent for the year 1857-58 and served only one year.

Following Rev. Joiner, Rev. Wm. A. Robinson came back for a second term. Serving the conference year of 1858-59.

In the fall of 1859 Rev. A. M. Hall came back to serve a second term of one year.

After Rev. Hall came Rev. Benjamin T. Ames who remained

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only one year and following him came Rev. John W. White who served until the first part of 1862.

Then because of the chaotic times of the Civil War, no other preacher was sent to the appointment until the Autumn of 1865.

During the interval of time between 1862 and 1865 the church was served occasionally by Rev. John W. Shields, a local preacher of the charge. During the last three years of the war, he was the only Southern Minister on the peninsula below Williamsburg, where he rendered good service.

In the Autumn of 1865 the Conference sent Rev. R. N. Crooks, who served the church for three years.

Following Rev. Crooks came Rev. J. D. Lumsden, who remained on the charge for two years.

After Brother Lumsden came Rev. Joseph Leah, remaining only for the conference year of 1870-71, next came Rev. R. N. Crooks again, serving the charge a second term of four years. Rev. Crooks was born in Greenup, Ky., March 16, 1830 and departed his life at Yorktown, Va., Feb., 26, 1916. He joined the Methodist Church in Aug. 1852. He served as a chaplain in the Confederate Army and York Charge was his first assignment upon entering the conference in 1865. Crook's Memorial Methodist Church in Yorktown is named in his honor. In all he served York charge a total of seven years, which is the record number of years for any preacher thus far. He is buried in our church yard.

In the fall of 1875 the conference sent Rev. B. C. Spiller who stayed the full limit of time of four years. Rev. Spiller is also buried in our church yard.

After Rev. Spiller, Rev. J. T. Dalby was sent, he remained on the circuit three years.

In the fall of 1882, Rev. J. W. Crown was sent by the conference, remaining only one year.

Before the second Providence Church was built in 1883 there had been 18 appointments served by 15 preachers, three different preachers having served two terms each.

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As the church increased in membership after the small church was erected in 1849, it became necessary to enlarge the church to accommodate its members, so in 1866 an addition of 25 feet was built upon the length of the building, making it 55 feet long and thus it remained until the new church was built in 1883.

In 1879-80, thirty years after the organization of Providence Church, the membership was 161.

CHAPTER 3

Providence Sunday School 1849 - 1883

Providence Sunday School was first organized either in 1849 or 1850, the first superintendent being W. A. Nottingham, Sr., the second superintendent was John R. Chandler, third, Arthur B. White, Sr., and fourth W. H. White. The exact dates that each of these served are not available, however the earliest Sunday School records available indicate that Arthur B. White, Sr., was superintendent in 1861. It is also known that he went in the service of the Confederate Army soon thereafter. The following notes were taken from an old journal entitled: "Sabbath School Journal, Commencing 1861." These are the oldest Sunday School records available.

Class 1—Girls—Teacher, Sophia Dozier

Pupils—Elvira Ironmonger, California Chandler, Eugenia Hudgins, M. E. Sterling, Allis Ironmonger and Matilda Colonna

Class 1—Boys—Teacher, Wm. H. White

Pupils—Wm. Weston, John Wainwright, Theophilus Hudgins, Samuel Ironmonger and Alpheus Pumphrey

Class 2—Girls—Teacher, Mary E. Hudgins

Pupils—Cittura Hudgins, Rosetta Weston, Catherine Sterling, Elizabeth Moore, Sarah Ironmonger, Sarah Davis and Mary Walters

Class 2—Boys—Teacher, Robert White

Pupils—John Walters, Charles White, Tiberius Pumphrey, Alexander Walters, Samuel Walters, and Columbus Ironmonger

Class 3—Girls—Teacher, E. V. Davis

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Pupils—Martha Hudgins, Laurretta White, Virginia Moore, Elmira Wainwright, Virginia Sterling and Kessie Walters

Class 3—Boys—Teacher—A. Weston and W. Ironmonger

Pupils—James Wilson and William Walters

Class 4—Girls—Teacher, Elizabeth Ironmonger

Pupils—Eudora White, Ann Weston, Rebecca Smith, Celestia Crockett and Susan Carmines

Class 4—Boys—Teacher—Thomas French and John R. Chandler

Pupils—Edward Trimyer, Carvossa Trimyer, Thomas Hudgins, William Wainwright and Frank Watson

In 1869 the following were officers and teachers of the school: J. F. White, Supt.; John R. Chandler, Asst. Supt.; John R. Chandler, Sec'y, pro tem and W. H. White, Director of singing. Teachers of the male classes were: Robert W. Crockett, Robert Wilson, Hardy Wornom, W. T. Wainwright and W. H. White. Teachers of the female classes: Miss E. V. Davis, Miss Eugenia Hudgins, Miss Mattie Hudgins and Miss Cassie Walters. The number of officers and teachers was 13 and number of scholars 44.

We find, in 1871, the same Supt., with J. C. Wainwright as asst., J. R. Chandler, Sec'y; W. A. Nottingham, Asst. Secy; and J. N. Wilson, Librarian.

Five teachers of male classes and seven teachers for female classes. They were as follows: Male class No. 1, "Holy Club", G. W. Trimyer, teacher, No. 2, "Gideon's Band", Robert W. Crockett, teacher; No. 3, "Spies", W. T. Wainwright, teacher; No. 4, "Little Prophets", H. W. Wornom, teacher and No. 5, "Little Disciples", S. Wainwright, teacher. Female class No. 1, "Jephthas Daughters", Miss E. V. Davis, teacher; No. 2, "Roses of Sharon", Mrs. Mattie C. White, teacher; No. 3, "Sisters of Mercy", Miss Mattie A. Hudgins, teacher; No. 4, "Friends of Jesus", Miss Cassie Walters, teacher; No. 5, "Little Pilgrims", Miss E. F. Nottingham and Miss Beunavista Charles, teachers; No. 6, "Daughters of Bethany", Miss Ellen Weston, teacher. Male students 34, Female 40, total 74.

In 1872, J. R. Chandler was Supt., with J. C. Wainwright as his assistant. On motion of J. F. White the school adopted the name of "Hope Sunday School". No record can be found of changing the

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name to anything else, so far as records are concerned it is still the official name of the Sunday School.

The collection on Feb. 17th, 1873 was 1c. Number of male scholars on roll, 36 and female, 46, total of 82.

For the year 1874, J. F. White, was Supt., J. C. Wainwright, Asst. Supt.; W. A. Nottingham, Secy; W. H. Howard, Asst. Secy; J. N. Wilson, Librarian, W. A. Sterling, Asst Librarian, and Wm. Sterling, Treasurer. This it seems was the first year the finances of the school needed the care of a treasurer. On Feb. 9th of this year the School first conformed to the schedule for services as laid down in the magazines.

In 1876, Albert F. Hudgins was elected Superintendent for one year with J. C. Wainwright as Asst., J. R. Chandler, Secy; J. K. Martin, Librarian and J. W. Sterling, Treasurer. Teachers of the various classes were as follows: Male class No. 1, A. W. Powell, No. 2, Simeon Elliott; No. 3, Samuel Ayers; No. 4, Robert Wilson; No. 5, W. H. Howard; No. 6, Wm. A. Nottingham. Female class No. 1, Miss E. V. Davis; No. 2, Miss Mattie Hudgins; No. 3, Mrs. R. C. Bunting; No. 4, Miss E. J. White; No. 5, Mrs. Rosetta Howard; No. 6, Mrs. Sarah Wilson. For the month of December of this year we find the collections for the four Sundays were 5c, 2c, 15c and 11c respectively. The amount of the bond required of the treasurer is not named. On Dec. 17th, J. E. White was transferred from "Gideons Band" to the "Holy Club".

In 1877, the Quarterly Conference appointed J. C. Wainwright, Supt. This appears to be the first year that the Q. Conference appointed superintendents. A. W. Powell was Asst. Supt., J. E. Davis took Brother Powells place as teacher of Male class No. 1.

In 1880 there was no change in the officers except that W. A. Sterling was made treasurer in place of his father, J. W. Sterling. On April 18th, it was moved and carried that the School meet other schools on Anniversary occasion. On May 15th. a Missionary collection was taken amounting to 15c. On June 20th. the school voted down proposition to take an excursion to Old Point. The number of scholars on roll on July 4th. were: 50 male and 44 female. Teachers for male classes 7; female classes 5.

W. H. Howard was Superintendent in 1882, with J. J. Nottingham as assistant and J. E. Tigner, Secy. Later that year on June

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24th. T. T. Hudgins was elected Secy., with L. M. Ironmonger, Asst. Scholars on roll 98.

Further information on the progress of the Sunday School during the period of the second Providence Church is given in Chapter 6.

CHAPTER 4

HISTORICAL NOTES OF PROVIDENCE CHURCH AND YORK CHARGE (1852 - 1873)

This chapter is intended to give the reader a clearer picture of the background and development of Providence Church through information taken from actual Church and Quarterly Conference Records. All of the material in this chapter does not apply directly to Providence Church but the relationship between our church and the other churches on the Circuit is so close that it is thought desirable to show this relationship through these excerpts of minutes of Quarterly Conference meetings.

It is interesting to note that the circuit in which Providence is located was first known as York and Warwick Circuit and continued as such until 1855. After 1855 it was known as York, except for a short time from about 1868 until 1871 it was known as York and Hampton Circuit. After 1871 it was known as York and has continued by that name until the present. In 1902 the Circuit was divided into York and East York, the latter consisting of the Poquoson Area.

The information in this chapter was taken from an old record book which contained the minutes of all of the quarterly conference meetings from 1852 until 1873. No conference records prior to 1852 could be found.

The first quarterly conference for 1852 was held at Tabernacle Church on Feb. 7, 1852.

It was decided at that meeting that the amount necessary to defray the expenses of the circuit for the year 1852 would be as follows: For the Preacher-in-Charge, \$113.40; for the Presiding Elder, \$55.00 and that it should be apportioned in the following manner—Tabernacle, \$75.00; Zion, \$52.00 and Providence, \$31.40.

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At the fourth Q. Conference for 1852 the Preacher-in-Charge presented the following report: "There are on this Circuit three Sabbath Schools under the control of three Superintendents, three Asst. Supt's., and eighteen teachers, and numbering one hundred and four students.

He also stated that he felt great concern for the rising generation and trusted that the Sunday Schools would be of great benefit to the young people.

On motion Rev. Robinson, Bro. Chandler, and Bro. Nottingham were appointed a committee to try to collect the money due on subscriptions toward paying for Providence Church.

At the fourth Q Conference for 1853, held at Providence, on August 6th., the Preacher-in-Charge reported that all Sabbath Schools were in operation but he was sorry to say that there was a declination in all of them due to the heavy rains which had been so constant for the past few weeks, making the ways so wet, and there were so many ticks all of which caused the Sunday Schools to be thinly attended both by teachers and pupils, however he stated that he was hopeful of improvement. These minutes were signed by Wm. A. Robinson, Preacher-in-Charge and Wm. A. Nottingham, Sec.

At the first Q. Conference for 1853-54, held at Zion, Dec. 3rd. 1853, the following Sabbath School report was presented: "There are three schools on the circuit all of which have been suspended during the Winter months but will be resumed when the Spring opens."

At the 2nd. Q. Conference, which met March 18th. 1854, at Tabernacle, it was decided that the amount necessary to defray the expenses of the circuit for that year would be \$184.22. Of this amount, Providence was assessed \$34.40.

At the third meeting for 1854, held at Providence on July 29th., the stewards of the circuit passed an examination of character and were approved. They were as follows. Cyrus B. James, William A. Nottingham, John R. Chandler, Whittington Crockett, Thomas C. Emory, Arthur B. White and Peter Shield.

The following men were appointed at the 4th. conference for 1854, as a committee to superintend and have erected a House of Worship for the Tabernacle congregation: Arthur B. White, Edward Hopkins, Wm. Freeman, Thomas Dixon and Thomas C. Emory.

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The following report was read by Rev. D. W. Laney at the third Q. Conference for 1855, held at Providence, July 14.: "We have done something for the Sabbath School cause since our last Quarterly Meeting but not as much as we would like to have done. We have organized two additional schools both of which are in a prosperous condition and raised some twelve dollars for the purpose of buying Sabbath School books, we now have four Sabbath Schools in operation but in some of them there is much room for improvement. Our prayer is that we may succeed in doing much good in this glorious cause."

The building committee of Tabernacle was vested with authority at this meeting to sell the old church; another committee being appointed to select a place in Yorktown or vicinity to erect a church and report as soon as possible.

At the first Q. Conference for 1856 held at Zion, February 2nd., it was decided that \$244.00 would be the amount needed to defray the expenses of the circuit for that year. To meet these obligations Tabernacle was assessed \$100.00; Providence, \$40.00; Zion, \$85.00 and Yorktown, \$25.00.

At the end of the conference year 1855-56, Providence was the only church meeting its obligations. Tabernacle fell short by \$1.75; Zion by \$14.88½ and Piney Grove by \$1.70.

It appears that the Sunday Schools rose and fell with the seasons, flourishing in good weather and disbanding in cold weather. In the minutes of the third Q. Conference for 1857 it was stated in the preachers' report that three Sunday Schools were in operation and in flourishing condition and the report from the next meeting read thus: "At this time we have one Sabbath School located at Tabernacle Church in successful operation and doing a vast amount of good. The schools at Zion and Providence have long since been disbanded and given us an act which we have cause to lament and seek forgiveness at the hands of God. I have urged upon the parents the necessity of dedicating the children to God in Holy Baptism."

At the fourth meeting for 1858, held at Zion, November 13, the following persons were elected stewards for the ensuing year: Whittington Crockett, Peter Shield, Wm. A. Nottingham, John R. Chandler, Cyrus B. James, John Montgomery and Thos. Amory.

At the first Quarterly Conference in 1859, held at Providence, the

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preacher presented the following resolution which was adopted:

"I am sorry that facts constrain me to report that there are no Sabbath Schools in operation on the circuit whereas in my opinion there should be three in successful operation all through the entire year. The dense population of this country obviates all the difficulties which sparsely populated places might plead in defiance of discontinuing Sabbath Schools during the Winter season, including the multiplicity of people crowded into neighbourhoods and the numerous quantity of children growing out of this fact call loudly for Sabbath schools to be continued during the entire year, because unless children be employed usefully on the Sabbath they will be engaged in unlawful employments, especially when they are so numerous. I would therefore suggest that we as a Quarterly Conference enter into a resolution to commence our Sabbath Schools immediately, say on the first Sabbath in the month of March, and that hence forth we endeavor to continue them during the Winter."

It was decided that the money needed during this year for expenditures would be \$590.00 for the preacher and \$77.50 for the Presiding Elder. Each of the three churches, Zion, Providence and Tabernacle were assessed \$222.50.

At the third conference for 1859, held at Tabernacle, the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools were praised by Rev. Robinson. His report reads as follows: "The superintendents of the schools are untiring in their efforts to do the church good in this department of her own interests. Bro. Giddings at Zion is doing well under the circumstances, the affliction of his family and other obstacles hinder him, yet the school which he superintends is growing in interest. Bro. Arthur B. White, the superintendent at Providence, deserves high commendations, the school under his supervision is gaining in numbers and knowledge and in piety. The school at Tabernacle under the supervision of John F. White excels the others. It is much larger than both the other schools because of the interest the people take in it. The schools at Providence and Zion are both very deficient in books."

At the first Q. Conference in 1860 a committee was appointed to see about building a parsonage on the circuit and the following resolution was adopted: We the committee on parsonages having had this subject under consideration, report: 1st. that we believe it best for the interest of the circuit, to build a parsonage and, 2nd. that a committee be appointed to take up subscriptions on the circuit for that purpose.

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The circuit stewards stated that the money needed for 1860 would be as follows:

To the Preacher for salary	\$150.00
To the preacher's wife for salary	150.00
To the preacher's child for salary	25.00
For the preacher's traveling expenses	42.00
For the Preacher's servant hire	36.00
For the preacher's board @ \$25.00 a month	300.00
For the Presiding Elder	110.00
Total	\$813.00

At the fourth Q. Conference for 1860 the preacher reported that he had received 20 new members during the last quarter and expelled one.

The following reports were made in regards to the churches: "Tabernacle Church is in good condition, out of debt and full board of trustees—Providence is in tolerable good condition, out of debt and a full board of trustees—Zion is in bad condition and a full board of trustees."

The following persons were elected stewards for the ensuing year: Thomas Amory, E. Hopkins, Peter Shield, Whittington Crockett, A. B. White, John R. Chandler, and W. A. Nottingham.

At the fourth Q. Conference for 1861 held Oct. 30, 1861 at Zion, the preacher reported that the Sunday School at Providence was in successful operation, the others had been discontinued on account of the present troubles. The Presiding Elder stated that in his opinion the state of religion on the circuit was declining owing principally to the war.

Apparently no more Q. Conferences were held on this circuit until after the war, as the next meeting listed in the record book was March 17, 1866. This was the first Q. Conference for 1866 and was held at Tabernacle Church. The meeting was called to order by the preacher, Rev. R. N. Crooks and the following members were listed as being present: Rev. John W. Shields, Local Deacon; Bros. Edward Hopkins, Thomas Amory, John R. Chandler and Whittington Crockett. Stewards; John J. Montgomery, William Page, Alex. Weston, Robert W. Crockett, and John White, Class Leaders. At this meeting the following were elected as stewards: Edward Hopkins, Thomas C. Amory, Levi P. Moore, John R. Chandler, Thomas D. Hudgins, Whitt-

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ington Crockett and Samuel D. Ironmonger.

On motion of Bro. John R. Chandler, a committee was appointed to take measures towards building a church for the Zion and Providence congregation, on Stage Road, near Cockle Town.

On motion of Bro. Whittington Crockett, a committee of five, consisting of Cary W. Crockett, Cyrus W. James, S. D. Ironmonger, John F. White and Fred P. Crockett, was appointed to take measures towards building a church in Crab Neck, providing the first committee failed in erecting the church specified in the first resolution.

The preachers salary for 1866 was set at \$340.00, Providence was assessed \$100.00 of this amount.

In the minutes of the second Q. Conference held at Providence, June 23rd., Fox Hill was shown as being on the Circuit with the other three churches.

At the third Q. Conference in 1866 a committee of five, namely: Thomas D. Hudgins, William H. White, Alex. Weston, Nathaniel Topping and John R. Chandler, was appointed to take into consideration the enlargement of Providence Church.

It was stated in the report at the fourth Q. Conference of 1866 that the number of people on the circuit in full connection with the church was 414.

It was resolved at the first Q. Conference in 1867 that in order to promote the cause of missions, the subject of missions be brought before each of the regular church meetings and that each church report to each Q. Conference the number of contributions and the amounts contributed for this cause.

The amount necessary to defray the expenses of the Circuit for 1866-67 were set at \$835.00. Of this amount Tabernacle was assessed \$275.00; Zion \$210.00; Providence \$210.00; and Hampton and Fox Hill \$120.00. This was the first time that Hampton was listed as being on the circuit.

In the minutes of the 2nd. Q. Conference which met at Fox Hill, June 29th, 1867, the membership of the circuit was listed as 514 White and 1 Colored.

The 4th. Q. Conference for 1868 was held at Providence, Oct. 24, 1868. The Preacher in Charge, Rev. R. N. Crooks, made the following

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statement on Sunday Schools: "There are four schools on the Circuit, which were in a favorable condition, until the sickly season began, but since, the schools have been thinly attended, on account of chills and fevers. There are about fifty officers and teachers and 200 scholars.

At this meeting Bro. John F. White, was recommended by the leaders of Zion Church, as a suitable person to receive license to preach. This recommendation was granted.

The character of the following stewards for Providence was passed upon and they were approved for the following year: John R. Chandler, Thos. D. Hudgins, and J. C. Wainwright. Kemp Charles was elected Trustee for Providence in place of J. R. Walter, Expelled.

At a meeting of the Board of Stewards, held at Providence Church, on the second Wednesday in December, 1869, it was agreed that the assessment for the support of the minister should be \$575.00 including \$75.00 rent for parsonage. Providence's part of this amount was \$149.50.

At the first Q. Conference held at Tabernacle, March 6, 1869 it was resolved that the pastor should divide the members of the different churches on the circuit into classes and appoint a collector for each class and that each member of the church should contribute at least twenty five cents a year to the cause of missions.

The 1st. Q. Conference for York and Hampton Circuit was held at Providence, Feb. 12th., 1870. The conference was opened with prayer by Rev. D. P. Wills, Presiding Elder; Albert Hudgins was appointed Secy.

At this meeting Providence and Zion were reported as having kept their Sunday Schools open all winter, other schools closed for the Winter months. To the question, "What is the general state of the Church?", the answer was given—"Not at all satisfactory—one suspension by trial."

In the minutes of the 2nd. Q. Conference for 1870, held at Fox Hill it was stated that \$184.00 was raised at Providence to pay a debt on said church and to furnish the same. (They were probably referring to the 25ft. addition which was built on the back of the Church.)

The preachers report on Sunday Schools at the 3rd. Q. Conference for 1870 read as follows: "There are now 8 schools in successful operation, at Zion, Providence, Tabernacle, Little Tabernacle, Smith-

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ville, Fox Hill, Hampton and a very feeble one at Yorktown, Va."

The general state of the church was described as, "not very satisfactory," with a lamentable neglect of family worship. It was reported that one member was expelled for intemperance.

At the 1st. Q. Conference for 1872, held at Providence, the preachers report on Sunday Schools read as follows, "There are 5 schools in operation that meet each Sunday as the weather permits." The following resolution was passed: Resolved, that each school patronize our church literature, published at Nashville, Tenn.

The following committee was appointed to select a site and solicit subscriptions to build a parsonage for the charge: G. W. Trimyer, Samuel D. Ironmonger, Edward Hopkins and Henry Watkins.

At the 4th. Q. Conference for 1872, the committee on having a parsonage built made the following report: "We, your committee, appointed at the conference to raise or secure funds to build a parsonage at Cockletown, beg leave to report that we have in money and subscriptions to the amount of \$985.62." The following men were appointed as trustees to hold the parsonage to be built or bought for York Circuit: Edward Hopkins, Wilton Wilson, W. C. Messick, J. C. Wainwright, Robert Wilson, John R. Chandler, Thomas Crockett, Asa Shield and F. P. Crockett.

The board of Trustees of Providence made this report: "We the trustees for Providence, beg leave to report our house in good condition—worth about \$1000.00 and will seat 300 persons; repairs have been made this year. Board of Trustees full"—Signed. J. R. Chandler, Chairman.

The preachers salary for 1873 was set at \$700.00 and \$110.00 to go to the Presiding Elder, a total of \$810.00. Providence was assessed \$202.50 of this amount.

At the 1st. Q. Conference for 1873, held at Zion, the preacher stated in his report of Sunday Schools that only two schools were open, Providence and Little Tabernacle, the other 3 were closed for the Winter and for want of a house to meet in. The report on the state of the church read as follows: "There are 166 males and 309 females, making a total of 475 members on the rolls of the circuit, of this number, 313 are married, 36 widows and 126 single. The majority of these are pious christians, I believe, stirring to advance the

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Redeemers Kingdom. There is some irregularity among the members. There are none now selling intoxicating liquors, that I know of; but there are some who drink at public bars and it is to be feared some drink to intoxication. There is some disposition, among some of the younger members to encourage and participate in worldly play parties and mimic dancing, and foolish song singing which are so hurtful to Godliness. Attendance upon public worship is tolerable good when the weather is favorable and the roads passable. Prayer and class meetings are not well attended."

At the 2nd. Q. Conference for 1873, held at Providence, April 26 of that year, Rev. R. N. Crooks, Preacher-in-Charge of the building committee submitted the following report embracing a contract for the purchase of the lot and residence of Rev. G. W. Trimyer at Cockletown, which was read and adopted, and is as follows: "We your committee appointed to build a parsonage at Cockletown beg leave to submit the contract between Rev. G. W. Trimyer and ourselves for his residence and ten acres of land at Cockletown as a part of our report. We are happy to say this contract has been complied with and the Preacher is living in the parsonage. Furthermore, we would state that there has been expended \$35.00 on the house in money in repairing. There, too, are other repairs necessary, which will be done as soon as the money can be collected."

The article of agreement, read as follows:

Articles of agreement, made and entered into this 10th. day of March 1873, between George W. Trimyer and Anna W. his wife, of York Co., Va., of the one part and Wm. Tignor, J. C. Wainwright, Edward Hopkins, Wilton Wilson, and R. N. Crooks appointed a committee by the Q. Conference of York Circuit, to build or buy a house for a parsonage to be held by trustees in trust for the M. E. Church, South of the other part. Witness, that the said George W. Trimyer and Anna W. his wife agree to and with the said Committee, that they, the said George W. Trimyer and Anna W. his wife, will sell the said committee ten acres of land including the dwelling house and all other appertunances thereon, situated at Cockletown, in York Co., Va., for the sum of eight hundred dollars, good and lawful money of the United States, to wit, five hundred dollars, to be paid by the 10th. day of April 1873, and the other three hundred dollars with interest on or before the 1st. day of Jan. 1874 and the said George W. Trimyer and Anna W. Trimyer, doth covenant and agree to give possession to the said committee on or before the 10th. day of April 1873, and

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doth further agree and bind themselves, their heirs, that on the payment of the said three hundred dollars they will execute to the before mentioned trustees, for the M. E. Church, South, a good and lawful deed of the County of York and State of Virginia, and to the above agreement, we doth severally bind ourselves, as witness our hands and seals this 10th. day of March, 1873. Signed by: George W. Trimyer, R. N. Crooks, William R. Tignor, A. W. Trimyer, Edward Hopkins and Wilton Wilson.

At the 3rd. Q. Conf. for 1873 the preachers report read as follows: "Through the past quarter our regular appointments have been filled in general with good congregations and very good attention to preaching. The Lord's Supper has been administered in the several churches, but not as well as it ought to have been,—not over two-thirds, I don't believe, attend this Holy Service, an indispensable means of Grace. Prayer meetings are held at all the churches and occasional class meetings. We have reason to fear that family prayer is fearfully neglected by the large majority of our Methodist families."

The 4th. Q. Conference for York Circuit was held at Tabernacle, Nov. 8th, 1873—The following brethren answered roll call: R. N. Crooks, Wilton Wilson, W. E. Messick, W. H. W. White, Elizha Lawson, Kemp Charles, Thomas D. Hudgins, John White, stewards; Elias Holloway, W. Page, Willis Wilson, Alex Weston and Robert Crockett, Class Leaders, and George Page, Trustee.—Most of the business of this meeting pertained to furnishing the parsonage.

No more Quarterly Conference minutes are obtainable from 1873 until the first conference in 1883. Chapter 7 of this book contains extracts from the minutes of Q. Conference meetings from 1883 to 1931.



The second Providence Church erected in 1883

"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord."

—Samuel S. Wesley (1810 - 1876)

No. 381—The Methodist Hymnal

PART II

CHAPTER 5

PROVIDENCE CHURCH 1883 - 1931

Because of the generally run down condition and incommodious condition of the church, the congregation began to think of building a new church about 1878. Accordingly the membership set to work in different ways to raise funds for the erection of a new place of worship.

In 1883 the church was erected and completed at a cost of about \$600.00. Mr. Fowler Hamilton, being the contractor and builder. The new church was erected about 125 feet East of the old church, at about the same location of the present church. Upon the completion of the new church the old building was sold to Mr. T. J. Crockett of Grafton, Va., who moved it upon his premises and used it for a store building. This building later became the property of Mr. E. A. Amory of Grafton and was used in his business of making and bottling soft drinks. The remains of this building were torn down just last year. (1949)

In 1884, Arthur B. White, a grandson of Edward and Amelia Davis who gave the original plot of ground for the church, sold to Alexander Weston, R. W. Crockett, J. F. White and Thomas D. Hudgins, trustees of the Church, one and one half acres of land adjoining the original one acre. (See deed book No. 20, page 475, Clerks Office, York Co., Va.)

PREACHERS WHO SERVED THE SECOND CHURCH

In the fall of 1883 Rev. J. S. Morris was sent by the conference to serve York Circuit. Being a Northern man he was not too popular with the people on the Circuit, and only remained one year.

The conference next sent Rev. J. E. McSparran, who served until the fall of 1886. Rev. McSparran was born near Earlsyville, Albemarle Co., Va., July 24, 1833. He died at the home of his son, Dr. E. C. McSparran, Richmond, Va., June 23, 1921.

The next preacher to serve the charge was Rev. Charles Taylor, staying the full period of four years from 1886-90.

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Rev. J. E. Potts was sent by the conference in the fall of 1890 and served four years. He was born in Hillsborough, Va., Feb., 9th, 1831. Died April 26, 1913.

Following Rev. Potts came C. E. Hobday who served the church three years. Rev. Hobday was born in Portsmouth, Va., March 1, 1844. He died in Matthews on April 16, 1914.

Rev. J. S. Wallace was sent to the circuit in the latter part of 1897 and remained only one year.

Next in order was Rev. L. J. Phaup, serving three years from 1898 until the fall of 1901. Rev. Phaup was born Feb. 6, 1864 in Buckingham Co., Va. He died July 13, 1933, at the age of 69, having been a faithful methodist preacher for 49 years.

The next preacher to serve York Circuit was Rev. J. H. Nicholson, serving only one year. Rev. Nicholson was born in Warren Co., N. C., Nov. 25, 1854. He died Feb. 4, 1909 while serving at Pungoteague, Va.

Then came the division of York Circuit and East York Circuit in 1902 and Rev. J. W. Baker was the 1st. preacher to serve the new York Circuit, remaining three years.

In 1905 Rev. J. R. Eggleston was sent to serve York Circuit and served four years, leaving in 1909. He was born in Henry Co., Va., April 27, 1873. Died Nov. 30, 1937.

Following Rev. Eggleston came E. P. Parham, serving two years. Rev. Parham was born in Sussex Co., Va., May 14, 1856; died in Petersburg, Nov. 5, 1918, at the age of 63.

In 1911 Rev. C. W. Turner was sent to the Charge and stayed only one year. Rev. Turner was born in Franklin Co., Va., June 22nd, 1854. He died Feb. 13, 1931.

The next preacher to serve the Circuit was Rev. W. T. Bates, Jr. serving only one year and leaving in the fall of 1913.

Following Rev. Bates came T. J. Pullen, serving the full time of four years.

In 1917 Rev. A. B. Warwick was sent as a supply preacher for one year. It seems that the preacher who originally received the appointment couldn't get the consent of his wife to live in a Rural

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parsonage without the conveniences of the city and therefore refused the appointment.

Rev. Warwick was followed by D. W. Jackson who served four years. While on the Circuit one of his good works was organizing the Men's Bible Class at Providence. This class has progressed rapidly and goes by the name of the D. W. Jackson Bible Class.

After Rev. Jackson came J. D. Hozier serving two years from 1922-24.

Next came Rev. J. T. Sewell serving until 1927 and was succeeded by S. J. Brown. Rev. Brown died after serving about 1½ years on the Circuit. He was stricken on the 11th. of March 1928 while walking across the parsonage yard and died before help could come to him.

Rev. Harry F. Justis was sent to fill the unexpired appointment of Rev. Brown and stayed on the Circuit until 1931. He was affectionately called the boy preacher by his friends. He was serving the circuit at the time our new church was built.

The second Providence church served the people of the community for almost half a century and was the gathering place for many meetings during that period of time—Sermons, Conversions, Weddings, Funerals, etc. During that interval of time the church had its ups and downs as does most everything but came out at last victorious.

At one time, during the appointment of Rev. Potts there arose some controversy among the members of the church and two factions developed. The consequence of this was the building of another place of worship, in Grafton, but after several years the members that had gone to Grafton came back into membership at Providence.

It was a very doleful report that Rev. Hobday made at the 1st. church conf. for the year 1895-96, which met at the church Dec. 29, 1895. It read as follows: "Dear Bretheren & Sisters. In presenting this my first report for the conference year, I find that I cannot congratulate you upon the condition of our Church. All that I can do is to simply express the hope that it may improve, I regret that I have to say this, but circumstances compel it. We do not lack members, neither are we lacking in ability, but the indifference and carelessness, manifested by the masses of our members as to church work and need is appalling, in too many instances the sad fact is made plain that the church and its claims are only secondary. Very few attend

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the official meetings of the church, at one meeting only four or five were present, although it was storming, we are confident the same weather would not have kept many from attending court, or our young people from a frolic, take care beloved, God has said he that honoreth me before men, him will I honor before the angel of Heaven, there is no plainer way of denying God, than refusing to do our duty as church members. If our members will but think of our solemn vows, we feel assured more interest would be felt and shown, for no honest man or woman will treat such vows lightly. Our church in the main is almost a dead letter. I am convinced that we allow ourselves to be too much swayed by our passions and prejudices."

It was stated that Providence had a full board of trustees elected at the 4th. Q. Conference of 1895 and the names were forwarded to the county court or confirmation.

The following were elected Stewards, Trustees and Class Leaders of Providence Church on Oct. 19th. 1895:

J. C. Wainwright	Steward & Class Leader
R. W. Crockett	Steward, Trustee & Class Leader
Kemp Charles	Steward, Trustee & Class Leader
J. E. Crockett	Steward & Class Leader
W. H. Howard	Steward
W. E. Weston	Steward, Trustee & Class Leader
R. F. Amory	Steward & Class Leader
J. F. White	Trustee
T. T. Hudgins	Trustee
W. B. White	Class Leader
A. B. White	Class Leader

Rev. Hobday's last report for the conference year 1896 stated that the conditions of the church were somewhat improved.

The following were listed as Stewards of Providence Church in 1905-06: R. W. Crockett, A. W. Powell, L. M. Ironmonger, W. E. Weston, E. T. Charles, J. C. Wainwright and J. L. Hogge.

In 1906-07 the Trustees were listed as follows: R. W. Crockett, J. F. White, E. T. Charles, T. T. Hudgins and W. E. Weston.

For the year 1913-14 the stewards of Providence were as follows: Edward Charles, C. E. Crockett, J. E. Davis, Lee Hogg, Jessie Hudgins, L. M. Ironmonger, W. E. Weston and J. C. Wainwright.

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In 1913 a piece of land as described by the following deed was acquired by the Church Trustees:

"This Deed, made this 14th. day of Oct. 1913, between Arthur B. White of Dare, York Co., Va., party of the first part and A. W. Powell, E. T. Charles, J. F. White, Sr., W. E. Weston and T. T. Hudgins, Trustees of Providence, M. E. Church, parties of the second part. Witnesseth: That for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the further consideration of the right to cut and remove, within Eighteen months from date hereof all the timber or trees now standing or growing, upon the land, except such as shall be reserved for shade, ornamental or other purposes, the same having been designated or marked by parties of the second part, The said party of first part doth sell, bargain, grant and convey, with general warranty, unto the said parties of the second part, all that certain tract, piece or parcel of land, lying and being in Grafton District, York Co., Va. and bounded and described as follows: To Wit: Starting at a gum tree on North side of main road from Dare to Grafton, it being the line tree between the Church land and the land of A. B. White, which is hereby conveyed, running easterly along the said main road to an Elm tree on side of said main road, and a few yards east of bridge in said road, thence running northerly and about center of ravine to a stob on line when land of Allen's farm intersects the land of A. B. White, thence westerly along line of Allen's land to intersection of Church land, thence southerly to first mentioned gum tree or starting point. Containing one and one half acres, more or less.

The said party of first part covenant that he has the right to convey the said land; that he has done no act to encumber the same; that the grantor shall have quiet possession of said land free from all encumbrances, and that he the said party of first part, will execute such further assurance thereof as may be requisite.

Witness my signature and seal this 14th. day of Oct. 1913.

A. B. White

In 1918 the official roll of the church was as follows:

A. B. Warwick	Preacher in Charge
A. W. Powell	Steward and Class Leader
J. J. Nottingham	Trustee, Class Leader and Steward

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W. E. Weston	Steward, Trustee and Class Leader
J. E. Davis	Steward
J. F. Hudgins	Steward
B. E. Watson	Steward and Class Leader
F. L. Hogge	Steward and Class Leader
J. F. Smith	Steward and Class Leader
Jethro F. White	Class Leader
Wm. E. Moore	Sunday School Superintendent and Secretary of Church Conf.
Rev. J. F. White	Local Preacher
D. D. White	Trustee
John E. Wornom	Trustee

In 1919 the following were trustees of the church: J. F. White, W. E. Weston, E. T. Charles, and B. E. Watson. Stewards were as follows: J. J. Nottingham, W. E. Weston, B. E. Watson, J. F. Smith, J. E. Davis, J. E. Wornom and J. F. White.

The same stewards were reelected for 1920 with Mr. Elmer Crockett's name being added to the list making a total of eight stewards.

Mr. A. W. Powell, J. J. Nottingham and A. B. White were appointed at a Quarterly Conference meeting in 1919 to supervise the church cemetery and the digging of graves therein.

At the 4th. Q. Conference for 1920 the same stewards were re-elected with the exception of J. J. Nottingham. Mr. Nottingham was elected an honorary steward and Mr. John G. Martin was elected Steward in his place.

In April, 1921 the Church Trustees acquired more land across the road from the church as described by the following deeds:

This Deed, made this the 28th. day of April, 1921 between Albert S. Dawson and Mary L. Dawson his wife parties of the first part and A. W. Powell, Et Als. Trustees of Providence, M. E. Church, parties of the second part. Witnesseth: That in consideration of the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said parties of the first part doth sell and convey, with general warranty unto the said parties of the second part all of that tract or parcel of land in Grafton Dist., York County, Va., containing one eight (1/8) acres (more or less) and bounded and described as follows: Starting at a point on south side of Public road from Dare to Grafton, on line between

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A. B. White and Albert Dawson, running from thence, Southerly along said line, thirty five yards, thence westerly seventeen and one half yards, thence northerly, thirty five yards to public road, thence easterly seventeen and one half yards to starting point.

The said parties of first part covenant that they have the right to convey the said land, that the grantees shall have quiet possession free of all encumbrances, and that they will execute further assurance thereof as may be requisite.

Witness our signatures and seals this the 16th. day of May,
1921.

Albert S. Dawson

Mary L. Dawson

Another deed granting a piece of land of the exact size and dimensions and bordering the land specified in the above deed was signed by A. B. White. These two blocks of land combined form a square across the road from the church 31 yards on the main highway and 35 yards deep.

At the 2nd. quarterly conf. for 1922 Mr. A. W. Powell was appointed as a church trustee in place of Rev. J. F. White, deceased.

The Stewards for the year 1923-24 were Elmer C. Crockett, J. F. Smith, J. F. White, B. E. Watson, W. H. Colonna, W. E. Moore, J. E. Wornom and E. T. Charles; B. F. Moore, Church Lay Leader.

About the beginning of the 20's the people of the church began to see the need for improvement to the church and more space for class rooms. At a Q. Conference meeting in 1924 a committee, consisting of J. D. Hosier, W. E. Moore, E. C. Crockett, E. T. Charles and D. D. White, was appointed to plan and construct improvements to Providence Church but no immediate action was taken due to various reasons and this committee was discharged at the 1st. Q. Conference for 1924-25.

The stewards for 1925-26 were the same as the preceding year except that H. W. Spencer was elected instead of E. T. Charles.

John Burcher was elected a steward for 1926-27 in addition to the reelection of the other stewards for the previous year.

At the 2nd. Q. Conf. for 1927 a Building Committee was appointed to look into the matter of having Sunday School rooms built, con-

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sisting of the following people: E. C. Crockett, J. E. Wornom, J. F. White, W. H. Colonna, J. T. Burcher, W. E. Moore, Mrs. C. P. Wornom, Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Mrs. Lillie Parker, Mrs. R. F. Wainwright, Mrs. Irma Ironmonger and Mrs. S. A. Lindsay.

The same stewards that served for 1926-27 were reelected for 1927-28.

Again in 1928-29 the same stewards were reelected with the exception of B. E. Watson. Mr. J. K. Charles was elected in his stead.

A motion was made at the 2nd. Q. Conference for 1928-29, held at Providence, April 22, 1929, giving the Building Committee of Providence Church authority to proceed in the matter of erecting a new church building.

B. E. Watson's place as trustee was by action of the 3rd. Q. Conference for 1930 declared vacant and Brother J. K. Charles was elected in his stead.

The following were elected stewards for 1930-31: W. E. Moore, W. H. Colonna, J. T. Burcher, J. F. Smith, J. E. Wornom, D. D. White, H. W. Spencer, J. F. White, and P. G. Green; E. C. Crockett elected Charge Lay Leader, and Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Church Lay Leader.

At the first Q. Conference for 1931 another building committee was appointed consisting of Rev. Justis, W. E. Moore, J. F. Smith, Mrs. Lucy Lindsay and Mrs. Emma Burcher to take the necessary steps in regards to building a new church.

At the 2nd. Q. Conference for 1930-31 held at Providence, April 13, 1931, a motion was made and approved that all parties owning grave enclosures in Providence cemetery be notified to remove said enclosures within 30 days from time of notification and in the event of enclosures not being removed by that time the trustees of the church would have authority to remove or have the enclosures moved.

At a church conference held for Providence Church on April 12th. 1931, Rev. H. F. Justis Presiding, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas sister Lillie Nelson Parker, who for a long period of time was a devoted friend to Providence Church, has recently departed this life, and by her will bequeathed to said church the

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sum of \$1000 to be used in building, or repairing said church as the members think best, and,

Whereas Mrs. Lucy Lindsay, Mrs. Emma Burcher, J. F. Smith, W. E. Moore, and Rev. H. F. Justis have heretofore been appointed and confirmed for the purpose of building a new church building for the said church, and,

Whereas the said building committee contemplates beginning a new church building without delay,

Be it resolved that it is the sense of this meeting of the members of said Providence Church that the above named building committee petition the Circuit Court of this York County, to direct W. H. Howard and J. E. Wornom executors of the will of said Lillie N. Parker to pay the said sum of \$1000 to J. F. White, Treasurer of Providence Church to be used for the purpose of building a new church building for said church and this 2nd. Quarterly Conference for York Charge is requested to adopt this resolution, and to affirm the action of the church conference in adopting the resolution.

A motion was made and approved at the 3rd. Q. Conference for 1931 that the board of church extension be requested to make a donation of \$1000 toward the erection of a new church at Providence on the site of the old church.

The building committee was instructed, at this meeting, to accept the bid of C. C. Vellines to build a new church, and to enter into contract with said Mr. Vellines.

As previously mentioned in this chapter, Providence Church No. 2 served the people of the community for many years but because of the increase in the size of the congregation there was need for more room. The members finally decided that the best solution was to build a new church. As the old must eventually give way to the new, the church was razed to make room for a larger, more efficient place of worship.

CHAPTER 6

PROVIDENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL — 1883 - 1931

In 1883 the Officers and Teachers of the Sunday school were as follows: A. W. Powell, Supt; J. C. Wainwright, Asst Supt; J. E. White, Secy; W. A. Sterling, Treasurer. Teachers of male classes: J. F. White, R. W. Crockett, J. E. Davis, W. E. Weston, W. A. Sterling, T. T. Hudgins and Charles Tignor; for female classes: Miss E. V. Davis, Miss Mattie Hudgins, Mrs. Virginia Ayers, Miss Bertha Sterling, Miss Mollie White, Mrs. Bunting and Mrs. M. G. Thornton.

No Sunday School records are available for the years of 1884, '85, '86, '87 and '88 but the Superintendents during that time were A. W. Powell and R. W. Crockett.

For the year 1889, W. A. Nottingham was Superintendent with A. B. White as Asst., W. H. Howard, Secy; Charles Wainwright, Asst. Secy; J. K. Martin, Treasurer; James Harry Thornton, Librarian; W. E. Moore, Asst Librarian; J. E. White, Chorister and Mrs. M. G. Thornton, Organist. Number of male classes 7; female 6. Scholars; 76 males and 40 females.

In 1891 the following were officers: J. E. White, Supt.; J. C. Wainwright, Asst; W. H. Howard, Secy; T. T. Hudgins, Asst. Secy; A. B. White, Treasurer; Thurman Hudgins, Asst. Treas; Charles Wainwright, Librarian; Mrs. M. G. Thornton, Organist; W. E. Moore, Chorister. The teachers of the female classes were: Miss E. V. Davis, Mrs. M. G. Thornton, Mrs. J. E. Potts, Miss Mattie A. White, Miss Berta Sterling and Miss Mattie Wainwright and for the male classes, Brother J. F. White, T. T. Hudgins, R. W. Crockett, L. M. Ironmonger, Rev. B. F. Watson, Thomas Mason, Miss Sue Crockett and J. F. Forest.

In 1895 J. E. White was Supt. Asst. W. E. Moore; Secy., James H. Thornton; Asst., J. E. Wornom; Treasurer, A. B. White; Organist, Mrs. M. G. Thornton; Asst. Miss Mattie A. White. Teachers of male classes: No. 1, Rev. J. F. White, No. 2, Miss Mattie Hudgins, No. 3, Major L. M. Ironmonger, No. 4, Thomas Mason, No. 5, Mrs. Sarah Lindsay and Mrs. Virginia Ayers. Teachers of female classes: No. 1, Miss E. V. Davis, No. 2, Mrs. M. G. Thornton, No. 3, Miss Mattie A.

White, No. 4, Miss Carrie Ironmonger, No. 5, Mrs. Maggie Watson.

On Jan. 27th. of this year a statement of the finances for 1894 read as follows: regular collection \$23.08, Childrens Day \$2.05, Christmas Entertainment \$6.85, Total \$35.98.

W. H. Howard was the new superintendent beginning with 1897. J. E. White, the supt. previous to him, having entered the Virginia Conference. W. B. White was the Asst. Superintendent during this year.

J. J. Nottingham was supt. in 1900 with A. W. Powell as asst., J. E. Wornom, Secy; A. B. White, Treasurer; B. C. Charles, Librarian; Miss Cosmus P. Powell, Organist; Teachers of male classes, Rev. J. F. White, L. M. Ironmonger, Miss Cosmus P. Powell, Mrs. Virginia Ayers and Captain A. W. Powell. Teachers of female classes were: Mrs. J. J. Nottingham, Miss Carrie Knight, Miss Carrie M. Ironmonger, Miss Fannie Howard and Mrs. Maggie Watson. Number of scholars 105.

The year 1902 opens with J. E. Davis, Supt., with no assistant; J. E. Wornom, Secy; R. N. Howard, Asst. Secy; E. T. Charles, Librarian; Miss Angie Powell, Organist; and Mrs. J. I. Wainwright, Asst. Organist. During the year Brother Charles resigned his place as Librarian and Stanley Wornom was elected to fill the vacancy. Number of scholars 84. There seemed to be a steady decline in the number of scholars on roll, the number decreasing from 129 in 1896 to 84 in 1902.

The year 1905 opened with J. E. Davis, Supt. and W. E. Moore, Asst., but it appears from the minutes that W. E. Moore was supt. from April 2nd. and after July 30th. of that year. J. J. Nottingham was appointed supt. Mr. Moore having moved away from the county. The scholars this year numbered 82.

During 1906 J. J. Nottingham was supt., with R. N. Howard, Jr., as his asst. D. D. White was Secy; A. B. White, Treasurer; Stanley Wornom, Librarian; Miss Delia Wornom, Organist. The teachers were J. F. White, L. M. Ironmonger, J. F. White, Jr., and J. C. Wainwright for male classes, and Mrs. J. J. Nottingham, Mrs. J. E. Wornom and Mrs. Sidney Smith for the female classes. Scholars this year numbered 94.

The year 1908 opened with J. E. Wornom, Supt. No asst. Other officers and teachers remained as the preceding year.

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Benton C. Charles was Supt. in 1909, Asst. W. E. Moore, D. D. White, Secy; A. B. White, Treasurer, Sidney Smith, Librarian, Mrs. Harry Spencer, Organist; Teachers: Rev. J. F. White, L. M. Ironmonger, J. F. White, Jr., J. B. Davis and W. E. Weston for the male classes and Mrs. J. J. Nottingham, Mrs. J. E. Wornom, Mrs. Sidney Smith and Mrs. J. B. Davis, female classes. On June 6th. of this year, it was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that we present the new Sunday School at Waterview with a number of song books.

In 1910 W. E. Moore was Supt., with no asst. Stanley Wornom, Secy; A. B. White, Treasurer; Sidney Smith, Librarian, Mrs. Harry Spencer, Organist. Teachers of male classes were: Rev. J. F. White, L. M. Ironmonger, J. F. White, Jr., W. E. Weston and Mrs. J. C. Wainwright. Teachers of female classes were: J. J. Nottingham, Mrs. J. J. Nottingham, Mrs. J. E. Wornom, Mrs. W. E. Weston and Miss Pearl Hudgins. Number of scholars on roll 92.

In 1911 a committee was formed, to gather as much data as possible on the history of the church and Sunday School. Much of this chapter is based on their report. The following statement appeared at the end of this report:

"We believe that we are possessed of more of the grace of giving than we were in former years. Perhaps it is because our needs are greater. From May 1st. 1879 to May 1st. 1880 there was raised in the Sunday School for all purposes \$3.75. We raised about \$40.00 last year (1910). This year we want to raise at least \$50.00.

We believe the Sunday School is progressing and accomplishing a great deal of good. We give the glory to God.

It is our pleasure to honor those who have honored God with long and faithful service. We would, therefore, honorably mention the names of such as, Bro. W. A. Nottingham, Sr., the first and faithful superintendent of the school; Bro. J. R. Chandler, who served long and faithfully at different times as superintendent, asst. supt. and secy., for the school; Miss E. V. Davis, whose faithful labors as teacher of female class no 1 for about 40 years can be rewarded only by the giver of Heavenly Gifts. Brother J. F. White, our honorable & venerable president of this association, who has given fifty years or more of earnest, living, consecrated service to the school; Bro. J. C. Wainwright who gave many years of earnest, consecrated labor in behalf of the school; Bro. L. M. Ironmonger, for his long and

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faithful work in the interest of the Sunday School; Bro. R. W. Crockett, who has given the best of his years to the work and whom God spares yet to be with us; Bro. Thomas D. Hudgins, who gave many years of his life to the Sunday School and Church; Bro. W. A. Nottingham, Jr. who served the school faithfully for many years as Superintendent, Secretary and scholar; Bros. Robert Wilson and Thomas Chandler and Mrs. Mary A. White, the only three surviving charter members of the school; Mrs. Emily Smith for her earnest, faithful work as teacher; Brother James K. Martin, one among the oldest and most faithful scholars of the school; Bro. A. B. White, who has been our faithful, trusted and efficient treasurer for twenty years; Mrs. M. G. Thornton for her faithful labors as organist and teacher; Bro. J. E. White, who labored so earnestly and efficiently to promote the welfare of the school; Bro. A. W. Powell, who has served the Sunday School for many years, always lovingly and cheerfully, and a host of others that might be mentioned, but we leave it to posterity to sing their praises.

May the great shepherd who has led us through all the years of our past, lead on to paths of yet greater usefulness.

Respectfully Submitted

Signed by: J. J. Nottingham, J. E. Wornom, A. B. White, Stanley Wornom and W. E. Moore, Secretary of Providence Historical Assn.

In 1912 the only changes in officers were as follows: Herman Wornom was Librarian; A. W. Powell, Asst. Teacher of male class No. 1 and D. D. White, Asst. Teacher of male class No. 3. Number of officers and teachers 14 and scholars on roll 92. The Sunday School collection on Jan. 21st. was \$1.05. Total collection for the year amounted to \$74.90.

No change in officers in 1913 except that A. W. Powell acted as Supt. from Dec. 14th. until March 1, 1914. The collection on Jan. 4th. was \$0.62. Offering for year was \$120.21. The roll was called 45 times during the year.

After March 1, 1914, W. E. Moore was Supt. again. The following changes were made in officers and teachers in 1914: Conrad Hudgins became secretary on March 29, 1914. J. E. Wornom was asst. teacher of male class No. 1 and B. C. Charles was teacher of male class No. 2. Mrs. Lillie Parker started teaching class No. 2 (female)

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on March 29th. The number of scholars on roll at the end of 1914 was 100. There was very little change in officers or teachers for the years 1915, '16, '17 and '18.

By 1919 the scholars on roll numbered 150. The offering amounted to \$170.40 a gain of \$90.76 over the previous year. The records for this year indicate that W. E. Moore was superintendent with D. D. White as his assistant until November 23rd., at which time D. D. White started serving as superintendent, with W. H. Colonna as his assistant. Miss Emma Presson was secretary; A. B. White, Treasurer; Cary Lindsay, Librarian; Mrs. Harry Spencer, Organist; Miss Mollie Martin; Supt. of the cradle roll. The teachers were as follows: Male classes—W. E. Moore, teacher of the Men's Bible Class, with J. J. Nottingham, asst., No. 2 Class, Miss Mollie Martin, No. 3 Class, Mrs. Sarah Lindsay, No. 4 Class, Mrs. John Martin. Teachers of the female classes were: No. 1, Mrs. J. J. Nottingham; No. 2, Mrs. Lillie Parker; No. 3, Mrs. Harry Spencer; No. 4, Miss Mamie Davis. The largest offering for any Sunday in 1919 amounted to \$4.25 and was taken on Oct. 12th. of that year.

The largest offering taken in 1920 amounted to \$16.95, taken on April 11th. This offering exceeded by about \$10.00 any other single offering for that year. Scholars on roll at the end of 1920 numbered 170. Number of officers and teachers 20. The roll was called 48 times during the year. The changes in officers this year were as follows: Clarence Green became Assistant Secretary; Bennie Hunt, Librarian; Miss Mollie Martin, assistant organist; Miss Ida Moore, Supt. of the Cradle Roll. Changes and additions to the teachers group were: John B. Davis, assistant teacher of the Men's Bible Class, W. H. Colonna, teacher of No. 3 male class; Mrs. Mary Wainwright, teacher of No. 4 female class and Miss Mollie Wilson, teacher of No. 5 with Mrs. S. A. Lindsay as assistant.

D. D. White continued as Supt. in 1921. The following changes were made in officers and teachers: Miss Lucy Green was elected Secretary with John Wornom, Jr. as assistant and Allen Davis, Librarian. Male Class No. 2 was taught by Mrs. W. H. Colonna, No. 3 by Mrs. Sarah Lindsay. Mrs. J. E. Wornom taught female class No. 1; Miss Mamie Davis, female class No. 5. The largest offering for 1921 was taken on February 13th., amounting to \$17.81. The ladies organized a Wesley Bible Class composed of 22 members during the year.

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The following report on Sunday Schools was made by the Supt. D. D. White at the 4th. Q. Conf. for 1924: "No. of Officers and teachers 21, Number on Cradle Roll 8, Total number on roll 182. Money raised during year \$74.60.

The official roll of Providence Sunday School for 1925 was as follows: D. D. White was Supt. until May 17th. After that time W. E. Moore became Supt. with W. H. Colonna as his assistant. E. G. Moore was Secretary with Allen Davis as assistant; D. D. White, Treasurer; Calvin Green, Librarian; Mrs. Delia Spencer, Organist; Marchant Wornom, Asst. Organist; Mrs. S. D. Ironmonger, Supt. of Cradle Roll. Teachers of male classes were R. N. Howard, Wesley Bible Class with D. D. White as assistant; Mrs. W. E. Moore, teacher of No. 1; Mrs. S. A. Lindsay, No. 2, Mrs. S. D. Ironmonger, No. 3; Mrs. J. G. Martin, No. 4 with Mrs. R. L. Wilson as asst. Teachers of female classes were as follows: Women's Wesley Bible Class was taught by Mrs. Ellen Nottingham. Mrs. Lillie Parker was teacher of Junior Women's Bible Class; Mrs. Delia Spencer, No. 1; Mrs. Mary Wainwright, No. 2, with Mrs. Sadie Wainwright as assistant and Miss Mollie Wilson was teacher of No. 3.

In 1926 the following changes were made in officers and teachers: Treasurer, John Burcher; Organist, Marchant Wornom; Teacher of Men's Wesley Bible Class, D. D. White with A. B. White as assistant. Teacher of male class No. 4, Mrs. D. D. White. Teacher of female No. 1, Mrs. J. E. Wornom, teacher of female No. 3, Mrs. Harry Taylor. Scholars on roll on Dec. 26, 1926 numbered 155, officers and teachers 20.

In 1927 J. B. Davis was assistant teacher of the men's Wesley Bible Class; J. F. White, teacher of male No. 1. All other officers and teachers remained the same as the preceding year. Number of scholars on roll on Dec. 25th. were 165, officers and teachers 21. Offering for that day amounted to \$6.95. Male class No. 3 received the banner for attendance and male class No. 1 for offering.

The officers and teachers were the same for 1928 with exception of Mrs. R. F. Wainwright who was replaced by Miss Nellie Wilson. The largest offering for any Sunday in 1928 was taken on Sept. 16th. in the amount of \$15.20. Scholars on roll on that date 156. Most of the lessons during this year pertained to the life and teachings of Paul.

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The only change during 1929 was that Mrs. Emma Burcher became teacher of male class No. 3. The number of scholars on roll for the various classes were as follows: Men's Bible Class—36, Young Men's Fidelis Class—18, Male Class No. 3—10, Woman's Bible Class—20, Women's Jr. Bible Class—18, Always Ready Class—15, Female Class No. 1,—10, Female Class No. 2—12; Total on roll 156.

In 1931 there were 160 scholars on roll; officers and teachers: 20. Collections for the year amounted to \$104.40.

During the time that the old church was being torn down and the new one being built Sunday School Classes were held in Dare-Grafton School.

CHAPTER 7

HISTORICAL NOTES OF PROVIDENCE CHURCH AND YORK

CHARGE (1883 to 1931)

The first Quarterly Conference for 1883, met at Tabernacle Church on Feb. 3rd. of that year. Joseph A. Procter was the Presiding Elder at that time; J. W. Crown, being the preacher in charge.

A committee was appointed at this meeting to inspect the parsonage buildings and to assess the amount necessary to put them in good order.

At the 2nd. Q. Conference for 1883, held at Providence, May 19th., it was moved and seconded and carried unanimously that the trustees be authorized to sell the old Providence Church and use the proceeds to defray part of the debt on the new church.

At the 4th. conference in 1883 the following were elected Stewards for the following year: T. B. Shields, S. D. Ironmonger, R. W. Crockett, Wm. H. Howard, A. Weston, Kemp Charles, Wm. K. Dixon, W. Wilson, George G. Hopkins, Wm. Messick, Henry Watkins, F. Amory, E. Bradshaw, E. T. Watkins, R. J. Forrest and L. M. Ironmonger.

It was strongly urged at this meeting that all schools use the Methodist Catechism in connection with lesson papers.

At the 4th. Q. Conference for 1884, held at Tabernacle, Aug. 25th. The following report was made on the condition of churches: "Trus-

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tees of Providence Church report the church in good condition and worth \$1500.00. Trustees from Zion Church report church in good condition and worth \$1000.00. Trustees of Tabernacle report a new church just finished and worth \$2000.00." It was reported that four schools were in operation and in good condition with 78 officers and teachers and 327 scholars.

At a meeting of the board of Stewards of York Circuit held at Tabernacle Church on Dec. 30, 1884, on motion of Brother Wainwright the salary of the preacher was fixed at \$700.00 for the following year, with \$30.00 for traveling expenses; Presiding Elder claims, \$110.00 making a total of \$840.00. On motion this amount was divided equally among the four churches.

NOTE: The fourth church was Trinity which was being built and was completed before Feb. 21, 1885. The second conference for 1885 was held at Trinity on that date.

The 3rd. Q. Conference or 1885 was held at Providence, May 23rd., with Rev. Wm. E. Judkins, Presiding Elder, in the Chair. The roll was called and the following members were present: Rev. J. E. McSparran, Preacher-in-Charge; Rev. John F. White, Local Preacher; J. C. Wainwright, T. D. Hudgins, S. D. Ironmonger, L. M. Ironmonger, Wm. H. Howard, T. B. Shields, Stewards; B. F. Watson, Exhorter; Alex. Weston, S. C. Ironmonger, and Wm. R. Tigner, Class Leaders.

It was stated in the minutes of this meeting that Trinity Church had been dedicated to the worship of God by the Rev. R. N. Sledd, free of debt, the church cost \$1700.00.

In the report "State of the Church" at the 4th. Conference for 1885 it was reported that the spiritual state of the church was good. Many members were requesting membership to the various churches because of recent revivals. Twenty applied for membership at Providence, it also stated that many backsliders came forward as penitents and professed to be reclaimed.

The following resolution was adopted at this conference on behalf of Thomas D. Hudgins, who died during the preceding quarter. It is thought suitable to print it here as he was an active member of Providence Church. He was the member that first suggested "Providence" for the name of our church. The resolution reads as follows:

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"Whereas God in his wisdom and love has removed from our midst our Brother in Christ Thomas D. Hudgins, and whereas Brother Hudgins was for many years a member of this body. Therefore: Resolved, 1st: That we in this Q. Conference assembled acknowledge our sense of bereavement in the death of Brother Hudgins who for many years served the church in the office of Steward.

Resolved, 2nd: That in the death of Brother Hudgins the church has lost one of its most exemplary members, and the county one of its most useful citizen.

Resolved, 3rd: That while we bow with humble submission to that Providence which is too wise to err and too good to be unkind, we will cherish the memory of Brother Hudgins and endeavor to imitate his example.

Resolved, 4th: That we are grateful to God that he was permitted to testify to the sufficiency of Divine Grace to sustain him in the dying hour.

Resolved, 5th: That a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be spread upon the journal of this conference and also a copy transmitted to the family of the deceased.

J. E. McSparrin
John F. White

At a meeting held Feb. 9, 1891 the following were appointed trustees for the Parsonage Property: J. Y. S. Slaughter, R. W. Crockett, W. H. W. White, Edward Bradshaw and Wm. H. Howard. The Preacher in his report on the state of the church made the following statement: "The people of York Circuit are a pious and religious people comparing favorable with any people under the sun."

R. N. Crooks was elected Supt. of the Sunday School at Yorktown and Brother J. J. Nottingham, Supt. of the Sunday School at Grafton.

For the year 1891 the following amounts were paid: For the Preacher, \$850.00; The Presiding Elder, \$124.25; Bishops, \$10.50; Conference Claimants, \$53.00; Foreign Missions, \$304.92; Domestic Missions, \$50.00 and Church Extension, \$26.50.

The following were elected Stewards for the ensuing conference year: F. P. Crockett, L. B. Shields, J. Y. S. Slaughter, J. F. Crockett, S. D. Ironmonger, C. W. Crockett, J. C. Wainwright, Wm. Mont-

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gomery, R. W. Crockett, T. T. Hudgins, Kemp Charles, Wm. H. Howard, J. J. Nottingham, Geo. Hopkins.

At the end of 1891 there were 869 White Members and 1 Colored Member on the charge.

At the 1st. Q. Conference for 1892 it was stated that there were five Sunday Schools in operation and in good condition, the schools at Providence and Trinity deserving special mention. They were referred to as very flourishing and doing good work.

The following notes were taken from Rev. J. E. Pott's report State of the Church."

"There is a little comotion just now among the whiskey men. The pastor has preached at every church on the evils of intemperance and some of the whiskey men are not feeling very amiable, but I think good will result to the church."

At the 1st. Q. Conference for 1893 the following report was made by the preacher Rev. Potts.

"The congregations were very large until this severe weather began. Even during this snow and icy weather the attendance has been good. I have been to every appointment and have preached twice every Sunday since conference, except on Christmas day at Providence, when my son Tommie preached for me, and at Tabernacle on Jan. 15, 1893, when the snow was so deep the people failed to come out, but I was there ready to fill the appointment. I have already made my pastoral visits since conference."

The report on Sunday Schools reported them to be in good condition, with more people in Sunday School work than there were members of the church.

It was stated that there was one parsonage on the circuit, valued at \$1400.00 and four churches, valued at \$7000.00.

The 4th. Q. Conference for 1894 met at Zion, Oct. 13th. The following Stewards were present from Providence: Bro. Kemp Charles, Robert Amory, Wm. H. Howard, W. E. Weston and Robert F. Crockett. At this meeting a full board of twelve stewards was elected for Providence Church, they were: J. C. Wainwright, R. W. Crockett, Wm. H. Howard, W. E. Weston, R. F. Amory, Kemp

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Charles, J. J. Crockett, T. T. Hudgins, J. E. Crockett, J. J. Nottingham, Wm. T. Wainwright and W. A. Nottingham.

The number of church members in the circuit at the end of 1894 was 999 white and 1 colored, making a total of 1000.

At the 2nd, Q. Conference for 1895 the following report was made by Rev. C. E. Hobday in regards to Epworth Leagues and Sunday Schools: "We have as yet no Epworth Leagues on our charge, we have one Christian Endeavor Society and five Sunday Schools in successful operation. From what we can learn our schools would be much more effective if our members as a whole would take interest in our work. Our observation is that on days of regular service many of our members will stand out of doors discussing general news and other topics while the schools are seeking earnestly for teachers. We have material in abundance but are sorry to say the interest in general is lacking. We hope to see a great improvement in this respect."

The preachers salary for 1895 was \$850.00. Providence paid \$221.75 of this amount.

At the 3rd. Q. Conference for 1896 the trustees of the Church at Grafton were authorized to sell their church property excepting the pews and pulpit, provided the said church shall bring two thirds of its original cost and be removed from the premises.

Rev. Hobday stated in his report on the general state of the church that he thought the church was making slow but steady advances and that there had been no cases for disciplinary action.

The 4th. Q. Conference for 1896 met at Zion, Sept. 26, 1896. The following report was made in regards to Sunday Schools: "Our Sunday Schools number four, one at each appointment. Their state is fair but ought to be much better. Our people are not a unit in their work, unfortunately there is more or less jealousy and criticism as to leadership and administration. This handicaps the willing workers and so impairs the efficiency of this work. Were our people to lay aside such feeling and willingly do their best no matter who might be the leaders, we soon would have such flourishing Sunday Schools that would be a source of both pride and joy. Pastoral instruction of children has been attended to."

The 1st. Q. Conference for 1897 met at Providence, January 9th. of that year. The reports at the conference were encouraging. Rev.

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Hobday stating that all of the Sunday Schools had been reorganized and that the outlook for improvement was good. He also stated that as far as he knew peace prevailed in the church and the prospect for the coming year was cheerful.

In discussing the various churches of the circuit at the 4th. Q. Conference in 1897, Rev. Hobday made the following statement concerning Providence: "Providence stands just about as it was when we first knew it. The membership seems to take but little interest, and the work falls heavily on a few. If our people appreciated as they ought their advantages in this work, I think we could easily be the banner charge of our District. Certainly there is no lack of material, or ability in this field. The great need is interest and work."

The 2nd. Q. Conference for 1898 met at Providence on April 9th. of that year. Rev. J. S. Wallace was the preacher at that time. In his report on the condition of Sunday Schools he made the following statement: "The Five Sunday Schools on this charge are in fine condition. We have taken the trouble to inquire into the condition of the various schools since the last quarterly conference, and find them well organized and in good order. Two of the schools have considerably improved during the past quarter, namely Providence and Trinity, while Zion, Tabernacle and Goodwins Neck are doing nicely. The best of all, however, is that thirty of the members of Providence School have professed conversion and united with the church.

The 4th. Q. Conference for 1898 was held at Zion Church, Sept. 24th. Rev. Wallace stated at this meeting that he thought the general state of the church was somewhat improved, although he didn't believe the charge could become what it should be until it was divided. He made the following remarks concerning this: "No one man can give the attention that is necessary for development to as large a membership as there is on this circuit, but with the circuit divided, with the preacher immediately in contact with the people, as would then be the case, he could give his personal attention to the entire work to an extent which is impossible now. This, we think, is about the best and only way to develop York Circuit, and lift it to a level with many other charges in the conference which have not the real capacity as this circuit now has within itself. We simply give this as an opinion, with the hope that in the near future the people will see their way clear to effect this division."

The 4th. Q. Conference for 1905-06 met at Zion Church, Oct. 9,

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1906. Dr. W. V. Tudor being the Presiding Elder and J. R. Eggleston the Preacher-in-Charge. The following members were present: R. W. Crockett, A. W. Powell, E. T. Charles, W. E. Weston, Wm. Montgomery, F. P. Crockett, W. H. Hornsby and L. J. Hogge.

At the 2nd. Q. Conference for 1907-08, held at Zion on April 25, 1908, the following report was made on Sunday Schools: "The Sunday School work is progressing since the Winter has passed and the Spring has returned, thereby giving more favorable weather. The attendance upon Sunday School services is larger. We are expecting better work in this department during the Spring and Summer months."

At the 4th. Q. Conference for 1908 a committee was appointed to request that Rev. Eggleston be returned to the charge for the following year. C. W. Ironmonger commended highly the services of the pastor.

The 1st. Conference for 1908-09 met at Zion Church, Feb. 6th. 1909. It was decided at this meeting that the preachers salary should be set at \$650.00.

It was resolved at the 4th. Conference for 1910 that the official board of York Circuit petition the presiding Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference to be held at Richmond beginning Nov. 9, 1910 to remove this charge from Rappahannock to the Norfolk district for the good of the said charge.

The following resolution was passed at the 1st. Q. Conference for 1910-11, held Feb. 6, 1911: Resolved that the Board of Trustees of Yorktown Church are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow money or accept a conditional donation or both from the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South not exceeding the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400) for the purpose of building a church at Yorktown and to secure the repayment of the same by mortgage upon the property held in trust by them upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between said trustees or a majority of them and said board of Church Extension.

The 2nd. Q. Conference for 1910-11 met at Providence Church, May 6, 1911.

At this meeting the Trustees of the Parsonage located in Grafton were authorized to sell to the Junior Order of American Mechanics and the Order of Red Men the lot adjacent to the parsonage lot on

which the Grafton Chapel had been built. This property was described as follows: This lot fronts the main road 115 feet, with a back line adjoining parsonage land 115 feet and side line adjoining parsonage 136 feet and side line adjoining the property of W. T. Wainwright 137 feet.

At the fourth quarterly conference in 1911 Mr. R. W. Crockett who for 40 years had been a steward of York Circuit, feeling the infirmities of age prevented his active work resigned his office. The quarterly conference by unanimous vote agreed that his name be kept on the roll of honorary stewards.

In 1912 the trustees for parsonage property were J. E. Crockett, C. W. Ironmonger, W. E. Weston, F. D. Crockett, S. C. Ironmonger, and J. E. Wornom.

In 1912 the trustees for parsonage property were J. E. Crockett, Circuit was originally on the Richmond District but was placed on the Rapahannock District in 1908, remaining on that District until the change in 1913.

The amount estimated by the board of stewards for the support of the preacher for 1914 was set at \$700.00.

It was stated in the Sunday School report at the first quarterly conference for 1914 held at Providence, Feb. 23, 1914, that there were 2 Sunday Schools in active operation on the charge, both in flourishing condition. Two others were reported in operation within the bounds of the charge, but not within organized churches; one at Yorktown and the other at Goodwin's Neck school house.

The preachers salary for 1917-18 was set at \$750.00 with \$57.00 for the Presiding Elder. At this meeting D. D. White was elected a trustee of the parsonage property in place of J. E. Crockett, deceased.

Rev. Warwick came to the charge during the cold winter of 1918 and according to his report, as stated below, had quite a job in finding a congregation to preach to. His report on the state of the church was as follows:

"I came to the charge on Friday, Jan. 4th. On the first Sunday, Jan. 6th. I preached to a good congregation at each church. On the second Sunday, Jan. 13. I preached to a fair congregation at Providence in a very cold church, and went with in a mile of Zion when I was told by one of the stewards that it was useless to go further for they had no wood, and there would be no

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congregation—that in the morning they had scarcely enough wood for Sunday School. I turned back against my own judgment, and afterward learned from those there that about 40 persons had assembled for preaching.

On the 3rd. Sunday, Jan. 20th., arrangements were made for me to go to Zion in a car, but the man backed out Sunday morning, and notified me when it was too late to make other arrangements. The snow storm continued all day, and I concluded it would be useless for me to walk to Providence.

On the 4th. Sunday, Jan. 27th. I went to both churches only to find closed doors and nobody, save that I met one steward returning about 10:45, a mile from Providence, who informed me there was no fire and nobody at church. I went on however, and waited until after 11 A.M.

Sunday, Feb. 3rd. I walked to Zion, the person who had engaged to take me in a buggy having backed out at 9:40 A.M., but found no one there and no fire. As you see I have had little opportunity to learn about the State of the Church.

On Jan. 19th. I tried to hold the Annual Stewards Meeting, but only 4 out of 17 came, and they took no action.

I hope and pray for better weather and to be able to make a more encouraging report at the next Quarterly Conference."

Respectfully submitted

A. B. Warwick, Preacher-in-Charge

At the third Quarterly Conference for 1919 Rev. Jackson reported the general state of the church as being good, with large numbers partaking of the Holy Communion.

At the 4th. Quarterly Conf. for 1920, held at Zion Church, a resolution was unanimously adopted to request Bishop Hendrix to return to the charge the present pastor, Rev. D. W. Jackson.

The amount estimated by the board of stewards for the support of the preacher for 1921 was set at \$1600.00 being equally portioned between Zion and Providence.

The board of stewards estimated the amount necessary for the support of the preacher for 1922-23 would be \$1500.00 and divided among the churches as follows: Zion \$700.00, Providence \$650.00 and Yorktown \$150.00.

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

A committee composed of W. E. Hogge, L. O. Powell and E. C. Crockett was appointed at the 4th. Q. Conf. in 1925 to investigate the exact status of the Boards of Trustees for each church and the parsonage on York Circuit and to report to the 1st. Q. Conference of the new conference year.

This committee made the following report:

"Upon an examination of the court records of this county, your committee finds that many of those who are supposed to be trustees of the church property and parsonage property, have not been confirmed by the Court of this County, and your committee cannot report who are the present trustees of the church property of this charge; and the following appear to be trustees of the parsonage property, viz., C. W. Ironmonger, S. C. Ironmonger, J. E. Wornom, F. D. Crockett, W. E. Weston, and L. O. Powell:

Your committee recommends that trustees for the church property and parsonage property of this charge be elected *de nova*."

W. E. Hogge,

Chairman

A board of Trustees was nominated for each church and the parsonage and confirmed at a circuit court held for the county of York, at the court house in Yorktown on April 6, 1926, the Hon. Thomas B. Robertson, Judge, presiding.

The following order was entered:

"It appearing to the court that the proper authorities of York Charge, Norfolk District, Virginia Conference, of the M. E. Church, South, has nominated and appointed the herein after named persons trustees to hold the legal title to the Parsonage property of said Charge and the property of each of the churches on said Charge; and it further appearing that it is uncertain who the trustees of record are, and the nomination and appointment of aforesaid trustees will make certain who the trustees of aforesaid property are, the court doth confirm and appoint in the place and stead of those who now are trustees of aforesaid property the following persons:

C. W. Ironmonger, S. C. Ironmonger, J. E. Wornom, F. D. Crockett, A. B. White, L. O. Powell, B. F. Watson, D. C. Worster, and J. I. Wainwright, trustees to hold the legal title to the Parsonage property of said charge; D. D. White, J. E. Wornom, W. E. Moore, B. F. Watson, J. F. Smith, and L. O. Powell, trustees to hold

the legal title to the church property of Providence church on said Charge:

F. D. Crockett, Geo. S. Montgomery, J. J. Ironmonger, S. C. Ironmonger, W. H. Hornsby, C. W. Ironmonger, C. E. Crockett, W. E. Hogg, and C. E. Purgold, trustees to hold the legal title to the church property of Zion church on said Charge;

D. C. Worster, J. I. Wainwright, E. E. Slaight, W. P. Spencer, and O. E. Evans, trustees to hold the legal title to the church property of Crook's Memorial church on said Charge.

It is the intent and purpose of this order to confirm and appoint the foregoing named persons trustees of the property aforesaid in the place and stead of any and all persons who are or may be trustees for said property before the entry of this order.

A copy, Teste:

Floyd Holloway, Clerk of the
Circuit Court of York County, Va.

The preachers salary was set at \$1700.00 for the conference year 1926-27, Providence being assessed \$650.00 of this amount.

At this meeting the building committee for Sunday School rooms at Providence gave an oral report, but nothing definite was decided and the committee was continued and directed to report at the next Q. Conference.

At the 2nd. Q. Conf. for 1928-29, held at Providence Church, April 22nd. 1929 a motion was made and approved that the Trustees of the Parsonage property petition the Circuit Court of York County to direct sale of all of the Parsonage property, except the land on the North side of present yard fence fronting the main road and running back to a wire fence upon which a new parsonage was to be built, providing a sale could be made at a price of not less than \$3500.00.

At the 2nd. Q. Conference held in 1930 Rev. H. F. Justice made the following report on the State of the Church:

"The work of the entire charge continues to show improvements.

Our Epworth leagues of all three churches are in good condition.

The Young people continue to show a fine spirit of interest in the great work of our church.

The Sunday Schools are well organized and attendance has been

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better during the spring months, our Superintendents are very faithful and are fully supported by our Officers and Teachers.

We have 3 Missionary Societies and 3 Aid Societies all well organized and doing a splendid work.

The aid societies have recently added several new pieces of furniture to the parsonage and the churches have had the parsonage wired and electric lights put in. These improvements have been highly appreciated by the Pastor and his wife.

The ladies through our conference circles are systematically looking after our conference collections.

Plans are being formulated for revivals at all 3 churches in the early future. At which time we hope to receive many new members into the church."

As previously stated the Minutes from Q. Conference meetings as given in this chapter apply to the Charge as a whole and not one particular church but the relationship between the church and its charge is so closely related that these minutes were stressed. These notes showed a definite trend toward better organization and enthusiasm in the church in later years and the one given by Rev. Justice is thought very suitable for the closing of this chapter because of the optimistic outlook, left with the reader, concerning the condition of the church.

PART III

CHAPTER 8

PROVIDENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL 1931-50

In 1932 the officers and teachers of the Sunday School were as follows:

W. E. Moore	Superintendent
J. P. Wornom	Assistant Supt.
Davis W. Martin	Secretary
William White	Asst. Secy. and Keeper of Records
Mrs. J. E. Wornom	Organist
Mrs. S. D. Ironmonger	Supt. of Cradle Roll

TEACHERS OF MALE CLASSES

J. P. Wornom	Wesley Bible Class
E. G. Moore	Fidelis
Mrs. W. S. Dawson	Number 1
Miss Mary Lou White	Number 2
Mrs. Eunice Wood	Number 3

TEACHERS OF FEMALE CLASSES

Mrs. Ellen Nottingham	Wesley Bible Class
Miss Mamie Davis	Asst. for Wesley Bible Class
Mrs. R. F. Wainwright	Junior Women's Bible Class
Mrs. J. E. Wornom	Always Ready Class
Mrs. S. W. Dawson	Number 1
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Number 2

In 1933 the officers remained the same. Changes in teachers were as follows: The Male Fidelis Class was taught by D. D. White and Male Class No. 1 by David White. Every fourth Sunday the Sunday School offering was applied to the Building Fund.

In 1934 the teachers remained the same and the only change in officers was that Martin Burcher was Asst. Secretary. On Jan. 7, 1934 the Banner for attendance went to Female Class No. 1 and the banner for offerings went to the Fidelis Class. The number of scholars on roll on this date was 168, Officers and Teachers 17.

In 1935 Miss Margaret Green was teacher of male class No. 2. Mrs. Mary Burcher became teacher of the Women's Wesley Bible Class and a third class of girls was started, Miss Lois Moore was teacher of this class. Amount in the Sunday School treasury on Jan. 7, 1935 was \$3.13; the offering for that Sunday amounted to \$6.83, making a total of \$9.96.

In 1936 Mr. W. E. Moore continued as Superintendent; John Burcher was Supt. of the Adult Division, Mrs. Ida Moore, Supt of the Young People's Division. Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Superintendent of the Children's Division. Irving Moore was Librarian. The teachers were the same as the preceding year. On Jan. 5th. of this year the offering amounted to \$6.62. The subject of the lesson was "A Mother's Vision and Influence". Scholars on roll on that date 179, Officers and Teachers 21.

There was no major change in officers or teachers for the years 1937 and 1938. In 1938 the Sunday School membership was listed as follows:

General Officers and Teachers	18
Children's Division (Ages: Birth to 11 yrs.)	41
Young People's Division (Ages: 12 to 23 yrs.)	53
Adult Division (Ages: 24 up)	73
Total	185

The Official Roster of the Sunday School in 1939 was as follows:

W. E. Moore	Gen. Supt.
Harry D. Riley	Gen. Secy.
Mrs. Etta Farmer	Gen. Treasurer
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Supt. Children's Div.
Mrs. S. W. Dawson	Supt. Young People's Division
Neva Burcher	President of Young People's Group
Robert E. White	Asst. Secretary

TEACHERS OF ADULTS:

Mrs. Mary Wainwright, Mrs. Mary Burcher and Mr. S. W. Dawson

TEACHERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIVISION:

Miss Ruth Colonna, Mrs. W. S. Dawson, Mrs. J. E. Wornom, and Mr. D. D. White

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TEACHERS OF CHILDREN'S DIVISION

Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Miss Etta Farmer, and Miss Neva Burcher

There were 174 Scholars on roll this year.

In 1940 the officers and teachers were the same except that Mrs. Emma Burcher was teaching in the Young People's Division in place of Miss Ruth Colonna. The Sunday School Secy. was R. E. White with Helen Jennings as assistant.

On Dec. 22, 1940 the offering amounted to \$11.55. Class No. 10 (Men's Bible Class) had the largest attendance and offering, they were 17 and \$4.60 respectively. Subject of the lesson was "Sharing the Shepherd's Joy."

In 1941 Helen Jennings was Secretary and K. T. Smith, Jr. Asst. Secy. Officers and teachers remained about the same. Total members on roll in 1942—200.

The officers as listed in 1943 and 1944 were as follows:

W. E. Moore	Superintendent
Mrs. J. E. Wornom	Adult Supt.
Mrs. Sadie Wainwright	Young People's Superintendent
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Supt. of Children's Div.
K. T. Smith, Jr.	Secretary
Mary Francis Burcher	Asst. Secretary
Mrs. Etta Farmer	Treasurer
Delma Presson	Organist

Wm. F. White became Supt. in Sept. 1944.

The teachers of the different classes in 1945 and '46 were as follows:

Mrs. Virginia White	Class No. 1 (Nursery)
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Class No. 2 (Beginners)
Mrs. Etta Farmer	Class No. 3 (Primary)
Mrs. Mollie Dawson	Class No. 4 (Juniors)
John Smith Wornom	Class No. 5 (Intermediates)
Mrs. Emma Burcher	Class No. 6 (Loyal Workers)
David D. White, Jr.	Class No. 7 (Fidelis)
Mrs. Arnetta Dawson	Class No. 8 (Always Ready)
Mrs. Mary Wainwright	Class No. 9 (Lily N. Parker)
Mrs. Mary Burcher	Class No. 10 (Women's Bible Class)
S. W. Dawson	Class No. 11 (Men's Bible Class)

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School Statistics for the year ending September 1945 were as follows:

ENROLLMENT

Nursery Dept.—Age Birth to 3	16
Children—Age: 4-11	47
Youth—Age: 12-23	19
Adults—24 and over	126
Officers and Teachers	18
Total	226

Average Sunday School attendance	100
Total amount of offering for year	\$350.36

In 1947 the officers were the same as the preceding year. The changes in teachers is set forth below:

Mrs. Louise Mitchell	Class No. 1 (Nursery)
Mrs. Raymond Wilson	Class No. 4 (Juniors)
Mrs. Sadie Wainwright	Class No. 8 (Women's Class)
D. D. White	Class No. 11 (Men's Bible Class)

Merritt Moore was joint teacher with David D. White, Jr. of Class No. 7.

Collection for Sept. 14, 1947 amounted to \$18.66.

The official Church School Roll for 1948-49 was as follows:

OFFICERS

Mr. William White	General Superintendent
Mrs. Ida Moore	Supt. Adult Division
Miss Neva Burcher	Supt. of Young People's Div.
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Supt. of Children's Div.
Miss Francis Burcher	Secy.
Mr. Robert Riley, Jr.	Asst. Secy.
Mrs. Etta. Farmer	Treasurer
Mrs. Delma Bristow	Organist
Mrs. Delia Spencer	Asst. Organist

TEACHERS

Mrs. Myrtle Moore	Class No. 1 (Nursery)
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Class No. 2 (Beginners)

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Mrs. Etta Farmer	Class No. 3 (Primary)
Mr. Robert White	Class No. 4 (Juniors)
Mrs. Mollie Dawson	Class No. 5 (Intermediates)
Mrs. Emma Burcher	Class No. 6 (Young Women's —Loyal Workers)
Mr. Merritt Moore	Class No. 7 (Young Men's —Fidelis)
Mrs. Sadie Wainwright	Class No. 8 (Young Women's —Always Ready)
Mrs. Mary Buchanan	Class No. 9 (Lily Nelson Parker)
Mrs. Etta Martin	(Woman's Bible Class)
Mr. D. D. White	Class No. 11 (Men's Bible Class —D. W. Jackson)

The Church School attendance seems to have increased in the last few years and people are showing more pride and interest in their Church Schools than ever before. On April 23, 1950 there were 282 names on the Church School Register. On several occasions the attendance has surpassed the 200 mark. The Men's Bible Class is in the midst of a contest, having divided their class in two groups, the Reds and the Blues. The members of each side try to bring in new members in order to gain points for their side. This contest has helped very much in increasing the class attendance. This class is now so large that it has to meet in the main auditorium of the church. The largest attendance so far this year was on Feb. 12, 1950, there were 64 members present.

The present officers and teachers are:

Mr. M. B. Mitchell	General Superintendent
Mr. Wm. F. White	Asst. Superintendent
Mrs. Ida Moore	Supt. of Adult Division
Mrs. Helen Hall	Supt. of Young People's Div.
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Children's Division
Miss Francis Burcher	Secretary
Mr. Robert H. Riley, Jr.	Asst. Secretary
Mrs. Delia Spencer	Organist
Mrs. Delma Bristow	Asst. Organist
Mrs. Alice Marie Riley	Supt. of Cradle Roll and Home Dept.

TEACHERS

Mrs. Myrtle Moore	Class No. 1 (Nursery)
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Class No. 2 (Beginners)

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

Miss Neva Burcher	Class No. 2 (Asst.)
Mrs. Etta Farmer	Class No. 3 (Primary)
Mr. Robert White	Class No. 4 (Junior Boys)
Mr. Henry White	Class No. 5 Junior Girls)
Mrs. Mollie Dawson	Class No. 6 (Intermediates)
Mrs. Helen Hall	Class No. 7 (Young Women —Loyal Workers)
Mr. Merritt Moore	Class No. 8 (Young Men —Fidelis)
Mrs. Sadie Wainwright	Class No. 9 (Young Women —Always Ready)
Mrs. I. B. Bloxom	Ladies Bible Class
(The two women's classes were combined into one class this year because of limited class room space.)	
Mr. I. B. Bloxom	Men's Bible Class (D. W. Jackson)

The largest collection for any Sunday to date in 1950 was received on Jan. 29 in the amount of \$37.12.

Mr. M. B. Mitchell was elected Supt. for 1949-50 becoming the 20th. Supt. to serve Providence Church since its beginning in 1849-50.

The Superintendents are listed below in the order in which they served. In some cases the exact dates were not obtainable.

	From	To
W. A. Nottingham	1849-50	—
John R. Chandler	—	—
Arthur B. White, Sr.	—	1862
W. H. White	1862	1869
J. F. White	1869	1872
J. R. Chandler	1872	1874
J. F. White	1874	1876
Albert F. Hudgins	1876	1877
J. C. Wainwright	1877	1881
W. H. Howard	1881	1882
A. W. Powell	1882	1884
R. W. Crockett	1884	1888
W. A. Nottingham, Jr.	1888	1891
J. E. White	1891	1897
W. H. Howard	1897	—
J. J. Nottingham	—	1901

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J. E. Davis	1901	1906
J. J. Nottingham	1906	1908
J. E. Wornom	1908	1909
Benton C. Charles	1909	1910
W. E. Moore	1910	1920
D. D. White, Sr.	1920	1925
W. E. Moore	1925	1944
W. F. White	1944	1949
M. B. Mitchell	1949	Present



This Church was completed in 1931 at a cost of about \$12,000.

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

PROVIDENCE CHURCH

Providence Church! a name most dear,
 A name which many are pleased to hear;
 A sacred place dedicated to God
 Where people gather to worship the Lord;
 Children attending the Sunday School
 Are taught to practice the "Golden Rule."
 Memory goes back to childhood days
 When we joined in singing the songs of praise
 And listened to teachers who tried to impress
 Upon our young minds what brings happiness.
 Changes take place as the years go by,
 The young grow up, the older ones die;
 The work goes on from year to year
 By those to whom God's cause is dear.
 In the Church yard graves, tombstones at the head
 Mark resting places of the silent dead
 Who lived and labored, and then passed on
 Leaving their loved ones sad and forlorn,
 Yet hoping to meet them again in that Land
 Where the faithful meet at God's Right Hand
 Never to part again, never to roam,
 But dwell forever in that Heavenly Home
 Where all is Joy and peace and rest,
 Which God has promised,—the Home of the Blest.
 The present Church Building is number three,
 A modern brick building, as you will see;
 Sunday School rooms for children, you'll find,
 A worshipful place for all so inclined.
 May God's richest blessings, on people and Church
 Abide, while the people continue to search
 The Scriptures for help, as time passes by,
 For of Me, said the Master, they testify.

By Rev. J. E. White
 (Retired)

CHAPTER 9

ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES OF PROVIDENCE CHURCH

This chapter is devoted to the different organizations that have been connected directly or indirectly with our church. A church is an organization within itself but it is composed of other organizations which help to carry on its work. Some of these are commented on in brief as follows:

"Providence Memorial Society"—One of the oldest societies in our Church is its Memorial Society. This society was started soon after the close of the Civil War by J. F. White, a returned Confederate Veteran. He having had the unpleasant task of burying both a brother and a brother-in-law after the battle of Antietam, felt a desire to help care for and decorate the graves of 5 Confederate Soldiers who died in the community during the early part of the war and were buried in the Church Cemetery. Others joined him in this; putting flowers upon the graves of the soldiers and their own departed loved ones and it became a yearly practice. Throughout the years speakers have been engaged to deliver a Memorial day address and large crowds always attend. Friends and members of the Church from other communities as well as local people come to pay their respects to departed loved ones by placing flowers upon their graves. This organization has meant much to our church. The president of this society is D. D. White, Sr. Mr. Elmer C. Crockett is Vice President.

"Providence Historical Association"—Closely related to the Memorial Society in that it was composed of a group or committee to gather historical data on our church was the Historical Association. In 1911 this information concerning the past history of the church was collected by the various committees and read at a memorial day service on May 17, 1911 by Mr. W. E. Moore, Secretary of the Historical Association. On August 12, 1912 a jar sealing service was held at which time the papers that had been read were sealed in a jar, witnessed by a number of people, with the understanding that the jar was to be reopened and the history read at intervals of about every ten years afterward. Somehow this rule was not carried out and it was thought that these notes had become lost or misplaced, however, after I became interested in recording the history of our church, I visited Mr. Moore and found that they were in his possession; these notes were very helpful to me in compiling this information.

"Women's Society of Christian Service"—This society was organized by Miss E. V. Davis in Dec. 1890 under the name of "The Women's Foreign Missionary Society of Providence Church." Miss E. V. Davis was the first president of this group and Mrs. M. G. Thornton, Secretary and Treasurer. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. E. A. Hamilton of Grafton, Va. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. J. F. White, prayer was also offered by Rev. J. E. Potts, who was pastor of the church at that time. During the first year, 1891, there were twenty-six members on the roll and they raised and sent away for Mission purposes \$29.10. In 1892 they raised and sent away \$42.67, an increase of nearly 50% over the previous year. In 1894 the only male members of the society were Rev. J. F. White and Capt. J. C. Wainwright. The first member the society lost by death was Miss Lucy F. White who died Aug. 2nd, 1895 and for whom the first memorial service was held.

In May 1900 memorial services were held for the past president, Miss E. V. Davis, who had served the society faithfully since the time of its organization.

In 1900 the following were elected officers: Mrs. S. J. Phaup, president; Mrs. S. A. Lindsay, V. President, Mrs. Lucy Hogge, Treas. Mrs. Ida Crockett, Corresponding Secy., and Miss Rosa White, Recording Secy.

From the minutes it is found that meetings were held with only three or four present and some of the members thought that the society had may as well disband. But instead of disbanding, the Society at a meeting about that time, had the leaflet, "Why our Society did not disband," read and the members decided to keep the society together.

In 1903 Mrs. S. A. Lindsay became president, becoming the 5th. president to serve the society. She was preceded by Miss E. V. Davis, Mrs. S. J. Phaup, Mrs. J. W. Nicholson and Mrs. J. W. Baker.

Mrs. Lindsay served long and faithfully and never gave up although she must have been discouraged, as records indicate some meetings were held with very few attending. The society survived and eventually began to progress under her leadership. In 1923 there were 50 members on roll. The society raised \$69.35 during that year. In 1925 there were 48 members on roll and \$54.65 was raised during the year. In 1933-34 the society raised from all sources a total of \$253.59.

In Sept. 1940 throughout Methodism the Missionary Society and the Ladies Aid or Earnest Workers were combined into one organization and became known as "The Woman's Society of Christian Service." Rev. E. W. Rawlings helped to organize this society. It started with 68 members on roll. The following officers were elected: Mrs. S. A. Lindsay, President; Mrs. J. E. Wornom, 2nd. Vice President, Mrs. Weldon Moore, Secretary; Mrs. W. F. Wainwright, Treasurer; Mrs. J. T. Burcher, Corresponding Secretary and Mrs. John Sparrer, Secy. of Children's work.

In 1941 Mrs. S. A. Lindsay resigned as president, having served as president of the Missionary Society since 1903 and president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service during its first year. In recognition of her faithful service the society presented her with an electric percolator. She was later presented with a past president's pin on Mother's day at the church. She left her earthly home Feb. 19, 1948 and was greatly missed.

In Dec. 1941 Mrs. J. E. Wornom was made president. She had served as Vice President of the Missionary Society and President of the Earnest Workers for many years. She was a capable and loyal worker. Her officers were as follows: Mrs. J. T. Burcher, Vice President; Mrs. Sidney Dawson, Secy; Mrs. Stanley Dawson, Corresponding Secy; Mrs. Henderson Wainwright, Secy of Missionary Education; Mrs. Joe Moore, Jr., Social Relations and local church activities; Mrs. John Sparrer, Secy. of Children's Work, Mrs. James Farmer, Secy of Literature and Publications.

Mrs. Wornom served faithfully until her death in Feb. 1944. Her name was placed on the memorial roll.

Mrs. J. T. Burcher became president after the death of Mrs. Wornom.

In 1945 the society raised a total of \$279.50 for the cause of Missions.

Mrs. J. T. Burcher was sent by the Zone in 1947 as a delegate to Danville to the State Conference. Mrs. Barton also went.

In 1948 the Society raised \$276. 53 for Missions and \$106.10 for local work.

In May 1949 the following officers were elected: Mrs. Marbel Edwards, President; Mrs. John Sparrer, 1st. Vice President; Mrs. J. T. Burcher, 2nd. Vice President; Mrs. Joe Moore, Jr., Secretary;

Mrs. Coleman Green, Corresponding Secy; Mrs. R. F. Presson, Treasurer; Mrs. Sarah Riley, Asst. Treas; Mrs. M. H. Barton, Secy of Spiritual Life; Mrs. I. B. Bloxom, Missionary Education; Mrs. Calvin Greene, Christian Social Relation and Local Church Activities; Mrs. Stanley Dawson, Asst; Mrs. Edward Hall, Secy of Youth Work; Mrs. James Farmer, Secy. of Childrens work; Mrs. H. C. Wainwright, Secy. Literature and Publications and Mrs. J. B. Davis, Jr., Supplies.

This society has and still is doing much good work in our church and community. The purpose of the Woman's Society of Christian Service is to unite all the women of the Church in Christian living and service; to help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; to develop the spiritual life; to study the needs of the world; to take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local church, improve civic, community, and world conditions. To this end this organization shall seek to enlist women, young people, and children in this Christian fellowship, and to secure funds for the activities in the local church and support of the work undertaken at home and abroad for the establishment of a World Christian Community.

The present enrollment of this society is 74.

Their goal is for every woman of the church to become a member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

"White Rosebud Society"—The Rosebud Society was a children's missionary society. It was first organized in the church on Dec. 18th. 1881, with Rev. J. F. White, presiding. The name "White Rosebuds" was suggested by Mr. L. M. Ironmonger as being not only symbolic of that beautiful flower but also in honor of Rev. J. F. White its first president and most enthusiastic organizer and supporter. This society progressed after its organization and continued for a number of years to raise money for the cause of Missions but finally disbanded in our church.

"Young People's Missionary Society" This society was a branch of the Woman's Missionary Society for the young people. It later became known as the Young People's Aid Society and raised money for local church work. This society also disbanded several years ago after contributing much to our church.

"Woman's Christian Temperance Union"—The W. C. T. U. as it is commonly known does not have separate organizations in each

church but is an interdenominational organization. The local unit was organized May 1928 at Grafton Christian Church by Mrs. Hillie Phillips of Poquoson, Va. and Mrs. Taylor of Newport News, Va. Mrs. J. E. Wornom was the first president and Mrs. Mary Colonna the first Secretary. The W. C. T. U. consist of Active and Honorary members, each signing a temperance pledge before becoming a member. The dues are \$1.00 per year. 60c of this amount goes for state temperance work and 40c for local work.

The York Co. Chapter of the W. C. T. U. of which Mrs. J. T. Burcher is president, consist of two groups, namely: The local unit known as the "York W. C. T. U." and the "Poquoson W. C. T. U." in the Eastern end of the County. Mrs. Ruth Sparrer is now serving as president of the "York W. C. T. U."

The W. C. T. U. sponsors two junior organizations, the Y. T. C. or "Youth Temperance Council" and the L. T. L.—"Loyal Temperance Legion." The age limit for the L. T. L. is 4-14 and for the Y. T. C. 14-18.

An adult counselor is appointed for each of these junior organizations by the W. C. T. U. Mrs. R. I. Shields is at present the adult counselor for the Y. T. C. and Miss Francis Burcher is the counselor of the L. T. L.

The W. C. T. U. and its junior organizations have done much for the cause of Temperance. The influence of these organizations is widespread reaching both the old and the young.

"Epworth League—Youth Fellowship"—The Epworth League at Providence was first mentioned in the minutes of a Q. Conf. in 1906 as being recently organized and slowly gaining ground but the organization was not very strong and did not hold together. There is no record of a league being re-organized at Providence until about 1921.

Rev. Jackson stated in his report at the 1st. Q. Conference for 1921-22, Dec. 10, 1921, that an Epworth League had just been organized at Providence with 28 members enrolled. Clarence Green was elected president. In April 1922, Virgil Acree was listed as president. This League held together only a short time but was re-organized again in 1925. John Burcher was the first president of this newly organized group. Ellington Moore was elected president of the Epworth League in 1929. Rev. Justis stated in a Q. Conf. report for 1929 that all three leagues on the charge were doing fine and that

each one sent a delegate to Blackstone Institute that year. Mrs. Ida Moore was elected president of the group in 1930 and in 1932 Ellington Moore was elected president again.

Rev. Mills stated in his report to the 4th. Q. Conf. in 1933 that the work of the Epworth Leagues had been interrupted by an attempt to transfer such activities from the exclusive league to the Young People's Division but that two organizations of Young People were still carrying on the work.

This change took place shortly thereafter and the young people's group became known as "The Methodist Youth Fellowship."

The young people's group has monthly meetings known as Sub-District meetings at which time the Youth Fellowship group from each church in the District meets at one of the churches.

These meetings were known as Union Meetings before the name of the Epworth League was changed to "Methodist Youth Fellowship."

Our Young people have carried on the work of this organization through the years; the leaders deserve much credit for their time and talent in keeping up the work and enthusiasm of this young people's group.

Mrs. Helen Hall is the present Youth Counselor, and Mrs. Ruth Green, Asst. The Youth Fellowship holds its meetings at the church each Sunday night. The present officers of this group are as follows:

Barbara Ann Hogge	President
Arlen Carter	V. President
T. C. Green, Jr.	Treasurer
Jean Moore	Secretary

More emphasis is placed on the "Youth" of the church now than ever before, and it should be, since they are the church of the future. Our young people take an active part in the church through their youth fellowship meetings.

Every Fourth Sunday they are in charge of the Sunday School opening exercises. They also fill the Choir every 4th. Sunday at both the Sunday School and Preaching services.

These various organizations have each played an important part in the growth of our church and have influenced the lives of

many toward better christian living, but there is still much to be done, we would not forget Christ's Command:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the World."

CHAPTER 10

PROVIDENCE CHURCH 1931 - 1950

The third and present Providence Church was completed in December 1931 at a cost of about \$12,000. Mr. C. C. Vellines was the contractor and builder. Rev. H. F. Justis was serving his fourth year on the charge at the time of the completion of the new church, and was very instrumental in the affairs of having the new church built. A picture of the church was shown on the front of the May 19, 1932 copy of the Richmond Christian Advocate and stated that the church had two hundred and thirty five members and large and enthusiastic congregations of old fashioned Methodists who delight to worship. It also stated that \$5000 had been raised on the church during the last year and that the entire indebtedness after less than a year was \$4,500.

The people of the community were proud of their new church and many put themselves to great sacrifice in giving their time, effort and money in clearing up the remaining church debt. The women of the church deserve much credit for preparing church suppers, socials, etc., which greatly helped in raising money to pay on the debt. Many people gave the money received for their "Sunday Eggs" as one means of helping.

The board of stewards was reelected without change for the year 1931-32. Other officers re-elected were Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Church Lay Leader, Mrs. J. E. Wornom, Chairman of the Local Board of Christian Education, Mrs. Ida Moore, president of the Woman's Missionary Society and Mrs. Emma Burcher, president of the Children's Division.

The Q. Conference unanimously voted to send a request to the Bishop requesting that Rev. Justis be returned for the following year.

At the first Q. Conference in 1932 Percy D. White was recommended for license to preach.

The same stewards were re-elected for 1932-33, Mr. Elmer C. Crockett was elected Church Lay Leader. He was also Charge Lay Leader.

In order to help meet all the required financial obligations in full for the conference year 1932-33 the preachers salary was cut from \$1700 to \$1500. Providence was assessed \$573 of this amount. Other obligations were as follows: \$40.52 for Presiding Elder; \$356.00 for general church work and \$11.84 for district work, making a total of \$981.36.

The board of stewards was re-elected without change for 1933-34. Mrs. Ruth Sparrer was elected Church Lay Leader. Other official offices remained about the same as the preceding year.

No changes were made in the official board of the church for 1934-35. The Church as a whole continued to show progress during these years and as Rev. Mills stated in a conference report, there was peace and harmony among the church members.

In 1936 the Trustees of the church were listed as follows: J. E. Wornom, W. E. Moore, D. D. White, J. F. Smith, P. P. Green, J. F. White and L. O. Powell. The Stewards were W. E. Moore, E. C. Crockett, J. F. White, J. F. Smith, P. P. Green, W. H. Colonna, D. D. White and J. C. Riley. Mrs. J. E. Wornom was president of the Christian Board of Education; Mrs. Ruth Sparrer was Golden Cross Director and Supt. of the Children's Division. Mrs. Ida Moore, Supt. of the Young People's Division. W. E. Moore being the Sunday School Supt. and Chairman of the Board of Christian Education.

The following were officers of the Church Board of Christian Education during 1937-38: W. E. Moore, Chairman; Mrs. J. E. Wornom, Supt. of Adult Division; Mrs. Arnedo Dawson, Supt. of Young People's Division; Mrs. Ruth Sparrer, Supt. of Children's Division, H. D. Riley, General Secy. and Mrs. Etta Farmer, General Treasurer.

No major changes took place in the church organization during 1938-39.

The total financial obligations for 1940-41 for Providence was set at \$1027.55. Of this amount \$608.00 was for the preachers' salary.

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

In 1941-42 the official roll of the church was composed of the following:

J. E. Wornom	Trustee
W. E. Moore	Trustee, Steward and Chairman of the Board of Christian Education.
D. D. White	Trustee and Steward
J. F. Smith	Trustee and Steward
J. F. White	Trustee and Steward
P. P. Green	Trustee and Steward
L. O. Powell	Trustee
R. I. Shields	Trustee
E. C. Crockett	Steward
J. C. Riley	Steward
J. T. Moore, Jr.	Steward
John F. White	Steward
Sidney Dawson	Steward
Mrs. Sadie Wainwright	Adult Supt.
Mrs. J. E. Wornom	Young People's Supt.
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Children's Div. Supt.

At the end of 1941 there were 255 members listed on the church rolls.

At the 1st. Q. Conference for 1942, D. D. White resigned as steward and his place was filled by D. D. White, Jr.

Rev. Clark made the following statement in his report to the 2nd. Q. Conference in 1942:

"The quarter just ended has been the most bewildering the pastor has ever known. Our entry into the World War, the seven day work week, the pushing up of the clock in winter, the present unusual rubber and gasoline situation—all these and other things tend to distract from the regular routine of life. The attendance at both church and church school has varied—sometimes encouraging, and sometimes otherwise, especially at night services."

The Parsonage trustees elected from Providence for 1942-43 were P. P. Green, J. E. Wornom, L. O. Powell, and R. I. Shields. Other Parsonage trustees were J. G. Shields, G. H. Sparrer and C. W. Mills from Zion. J. R. Chandler and J. I. Wainwright from Crooks Memorial.

The same stewards were reelected for 1942-43.

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

The total financial obligations of Providence Church for 1942-43 amounted to \$1193.30. Of this amount \$722.00 was for the pastor. The pastors salary was set at \$1900.00 for the year.

The following resolutions were written and adopted on the death of Mrs. J. E. Wornom, who for many years was very active in all phases of the work concerning her church and community. She died in Feb. 1944.

WHEREAS our Heavenly Father, in his infinite wisdom has called from our midst the soul of our friend and co-worker, Mrs. J. E. Wornom, and

WHEREAS we recognized in her one of devoted and sincere interest in the welfare of both our church life and the civic life of our community, and

WHEREAS we realize our great loss in leadership in the church school, the church, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and other beneficent activities, therefore be it

RESOLVED first, that we rejoice and are glad of having had the benefit of her long and devoted services, and of having had the privilege of being co-laborer with her. Be it further

RESOLVED that we, sincerely mourn her departure and pray that her example may influence and help us to carry on the work that was so dear to her heart. Be it further

RESOLVED that we extend to the bereaved family our very sincere sympathy in their hours of bereavement, and be it also

RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be filed in the church school records, a copy be sent to the family and a copy be sent to the Virginia Methodist Advocate.

J. F. White, Emma P. Burcher, Mollie M. Dawson, W. E. Moore, Supt.
—Committee of Providence Methodist Sunday School

There was no change in the Board of Stewards for 1943-44 or 1944-45. The Board of Christian Education Superintendents for 1944-45 were listed as follows:

W. F. White	Gen. Supt.
Mrs. Ida Moore	Adult Division
Miss Neva Burcher	Young People's Division
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Children's Division
The Official Roll of Providence Church for the conference year	

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH

1945-46 consisted of the following:

Name	Office	Committee
E. C. Crockett	Steward	Membership committee
Sidney Dawson	Steward	Records and Audit
P. P. Green	Steward and Trustee	
J. T. Moore, Jr.	Steward	
W. E. Moore	Steward and Trustee	Membership and Nominations Comm.
Raymond Shields	Steward and Trustee	
J. F. White	Steward and Trustee	Pastorial Relations and Audit
D. D. White	Trustee	
D. D. White, Jr.	Steward	
John F. White	Steward	
William F. White	Sunday School Supt & Steward	
J. E. Wornom	Trustee	
John S. Wornom	Steward	
Mrs. John T. Burcher		Nominations Committee
Mrs. Stanley Dawson		Church Board of Education
Mrs. Ida Moore	Supt. Adult Division	Hospital and Homes Committee
J. F. Smith	Steward and Trustee	Membership Com.
Miss Neva Burcher	Supt. of Young People's Div.	
Mrs. Ruth Sparrer	Supt. of Children's Division.	
L. O. Powell	Trustee	

The preacher's salary for 1945-46 was set at \$2500.00. Providence was assessed \$950.00 of this amount. The total obligations for this year, for Providence amounted to \$1555.63.

The preacher's salary was raised to \$2600.00 for 1946-47. Providence's part of this was set at \$988.00.

The stewards elected for 1947-48 were E. C. Crockett, P. P. Green, W. E. Moore, J. T. Moore, Jr., Merit E. Moore, M. B. Mitchell, Raymond Shields, J. F. Smith, D. D. White, Jr., Wm. F. White, John S. Wornom and J. F. White.

The estimated salary of the preacher for 1947-48 was set at \$2860.00. Providence was assessed \$1087.00 of this amount, the Church's total financial obligations for the year were estimated at \$1744.80.

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At the 1st. Quarterly Conference for 1947-48 the following were elected as members at large to the Providence Board of Christian Education: Mrs. J. N. Farmer, Mrs. Merrill Barton, Mrs. Stanley Dawson, Mrs. Robert Presson and Mrs. Henderson Wainwright.

A new system of electing stewards was adopted, beginning with the year 1947-48. The stewards are now elected for terms of 1, 2 and 3 years. This system is working very well.

The budget system of financing the expenses of the church was adopted this same year. A copy of the budget is mailed to each church member yearly in order that he may know the financial needs of the church and how his contributions are used. This system has proven very effective through the use of the envelope system of contributing.

Rev. Carroll Freeman formerly of Poquoson and Pastor of Blackstone Methodist Church officiated at the Revival Meetings held at Providence in April 1949. Very large crowds attended these meetings.

The preachers salary was set at \$3000.00 for 1949-50.

The latest repairs to the church consisted of cutting off the studding in the inner walls of the basement about 8 in. from the floor and putting a concrete foundation as a support for the walls. This job was done by Mr. C. D. Card, Hampton Contractor at a cost of \$728.00. The studding had begun to rot near the floor as a result of water seepage in the church for some time after it was built. This condition was finally overcome by guttering the church roof.

The present stewards and trustees of our church are:

J. T. Moore, Jr.	Chairman, Board of Stewards
J. F. Smith	Steward and Trustee
Merritt Moore	Steward
D. D. White, Jr.	Steward—Communion Steward
Calvin Green	Steward
Hillary Bridwell	Steward
Wm. F. White	Steward
John S. Wornom	Steward—Secretary & Treasurer
Raymond Shields	Steward and Trustee
M. B. Mitchell	Steward
W. L. Davis	Steward
V. W. Nunn	Steward
D. D. White, Sr.	Trustee

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L. O. Powell	Trustee
W. E. Moore	Honorary Steward and Trustee
P. P. Green	Honorary Steward and Trustee
E. C. Crockett	Honorary Steward
J. F. White	Honorary Steward and Trustee

The various committees as required by Discipline 532-a are as follows:

Membership: Mrs. Sadie Wainwright, J. S. Wornom and William F. White.

Finance: Board of Stewards.

Pastoral Relations: J. F. Smith, E. C. Crockett, and J. F. White

Nominations: Joint Board of Stewards

Audit: M. H. Edwards and Francis Burcher

Records: G. L. Montgomery—For Charge

Hospital and Homes: Mrs. Sidney Dawson

Church Board of Missions and Church Ext.: Mrs. Marble Edwards, Mrs. Helen Hall, W. F. White and Mrs. I. B. Bloxom.

PREACHERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE PRESENT CHURCH:

The first preacher to serve Providence Church after Rev. Justis left was Rev. J. T. Mills, coming on the charge in the fall of 1932. He served the charge for four years. Rev. Mills is now making his home in Seaford, having superannuated from the ministry, he is very active in church work at Zion Church.

Following Rev. Mills in 1936 was Rev. Paul R. Best serving the charge for two years. Rev. Best is now serving Mecklenburg Charge in the Petersburg District.

Rev. E. W. Rawlings was appointed to the Charge in 1938 and served for two years. The new parsonage in Grafton was built during his stay on the charge. After the new parsonage was built, the old one was sold to Mr. E. C. Crockett to be used as his residence. Rev. Rawlings is now serving Fluvanna in the Charlottesville District.

Following Rev. Rawlings, Rev. O. M. Clarke was appointed to the charge in the fall of 1940. He served for 4 years leaving in 1944. He is now serving Heathsville Charge in the Rappahannock District.

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Rev. Mack Thommason was appointed to York Charge in 1944 serving until the end of the 1944-45 conference year. After leaving this charge Rev. Thommason transferred to the W. Va. Conference.

Next on the list is our present pastor Rev. Merrill Barton, who has been faithfully rendering his services since his arrival in 1945. Rev. Barton is now serving his fifth year on the charge and is the first preacher in the history of our church who has had the honor of being returned for a fifth term.

LIST OF PREACHERS WHO HAVE SERVED YORK CHARGE SINCE 1849 IN THE ORDER THAT THEY SERVED

John S. Briggs	1849-51
George W. Trimyer	1851-52
Wm. A. Robinson	1852-54
David W. Laney	1854-55
Humphrey Billups	1855-56
A. M. Hall	1856-57
James E. Joiner	1857-58
Wm. A. Robinson	1858-59
A. M. Hall	1859-60
Benjamin T. Ames	1860-61
John W. White	1861-62
No appointments—Charge served by G. W. Trimyer and John Shield, local preacher until 1865.	
R. N. Crooks	1865-68
J. D. Lumsden	1868-70
Joseph Leah	1870-71
R. N. Crooks	1871-75
B. C. Spiller	1875-79
J. T. Dalby	1879-82
J. W. Crown	1882-83
J. S. Morris	1883-84
J. E. McSparran	1884-86
Charles Taylor	1886-90
J. E. Potts	1890-94

LIST OF PRESIDING ELDERS WHO SERVED DURING THE CORRESPONDING YEARS—THE NAMES OF ALL ARE NOT AVAILABLE NOR THE EXACT DATES THAT THEY SERVED

Jacob Manning	1853
Thomas C. Hayes	1853-54
Leonodas Rosser	1854-56
Thomas C. Hayes	1856-57
D. L. Doggett	1857-61
Leonodas Rosser	1865-68
D. P. Willis	1868-70
A. F. Brown	1870-71
P. A. Peterson	1871—
Joseph A. Proctor	1882-83
Wm. E. Judkins	1883-86
Paul Whitehead	1890-94

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C. E. Hobday	1894-97	A. F. Brown	1894-98
J. S. Wallace	1897-98		
L. J. Phaup	1898-01		
J. H. Nicholson	1901-02		
J. W. Baker	1902-05		
J. R. Eggleston	1905-09	W. V. Tudor	1905-07
E. P. Parham	1909-11	E. H. Rawlings	1907-08
C. W. Turner	1911-12	R. F. Gayle	1908-09
W. T. Bates, Jr.	1912-13	W. G. Boggs	1909-13
T. J. Pullen	1913-17	G. W. Jones	1913-18
A. B. Warwick	1917-18	Dr. McSimpson	1918-20
D. W. Jackson	1918-22	W. T. Green	1920-21
J. D. Hozier	1922-24	J. J. Bradford	1921-25
J. T. Sewell	1924-27	G. W. Jones	1925-29
S. J. Brown	1927-28	R. H. Potts	1929-30
H. F. Justis	1928-32	J. T. Bosman	1930-34
J. T. Mills	1932-36	W. A. Wright	1934-38
P. R. Best	1936-38	T. F. Carroll	1938-40
E. W. Rawlings	1938-40	W. C. Gum	1940-45
O. M. Clarke	1940-44	F. L. Wells	1945-50
Mack Thommason	1944-45		
Merrill Barton	1945-50		

In all there have been 44 appointments to York Charge since 1849 served by 41 pastors.

We should be forever grateful to those who have carried on the work of the Church and Church School throughout the years. Many of these have passed on to their eternal reward. The Memorial Windows in Providence Church are a constant reminder of those who have passed on.

There are many in our church today, some whose names may not have been mentioned in this book, who deserve much credit but it would be impossible to attempt to list the names of any without omitting some worthy of mention.

We have been very fortunate in having so many church going, christian people move into our community in the last few years. Some of these people even changed their denomination in order to join our church and are taking active parts in the church.

Many gifts have been bestowed upon our church in recent

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years, such as the candlesticks, vases, chairs, the cross and other things that adorn the Altar.

Some of these gifts were given as a memorial to someone, such as the Baptismal font, presented by Mrs. Ellen Johnson in memory of Alexander Weston and Ellen V. Weston; The Communion Table presented in memory of Rev. B. F. Watson by his son W. T. Watson; The Cross was presented in memory of Mrs. Mary C. Wainwright by the Lily Nelson Parker Class in 1948; The Vases were presented by the Moore family in memory of Mr. & Mrs. J. I. Moore; The pulpit Chairs were given by the Young Women's "Always Ready Class," in honor of Mrs. J. E. Wornom. They were dedicated to the church by her son Rev. Herman Wornom on May 14, 1950.

The Christian Flag and the American Flag which adorn the altar were given in Dec. 1949 by the Young Women's "Loyal Workers Class."

As Rev. Barton recently expressed in a sermon, The Spot Lights shining on the Church at night show it as a monument to the Grace of God to those passing by.

A Providence Church has served our Community for 100 years and we hope that it will be served for many years to come.

Due to the increased membership of our Church and Church School rolls there is need for additional class rooms and a larger auditorium.

At a recent meeting of the board of stewards of Providence the chairman of the board was given authority to appoint a building committee to take the necessary steps toward this goal.

Many changes and improvements have taken place during the past century and we pray that our church may continue to grow in spirit, in numbers and in faith in God.

Providence Church is our heritage, we should cherish it and worship in it.

In conclusion I would like to make three suggestions to the Board of Stewards and members of Providence Church in regards to the preservation of historical records of the church.

First: That a fire proof metal filing cabinet be obtained to keep all Church and Church School Records. Some of these are valuable to the Church and will be more valuable as time passes. All of the records

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of the Circuit could be kept together, preferably in the Parsonage.

Second: A plaque containing the names of all of the preachers who have served the church, in the order that they served would be something of interest to be placed in the church.

Third: To place a granite or otherwise stone marker on the site of the first Providence Church, containing a marker in memory of Mr. Edward Davis who gave the land and inspiration for the first church. This marker could also contain the date of the first church and other pertinent information.

Rise up, O men of God!

Have done with lesser things;

Give heart and mind and soul and strength

To serve the King of Kings.

Rise up, O men of God!

The Church for You doth wait;

Her strength unequal to her task.

Rise up and make her Great!

No. 267—The Methodist Hymnal.